Dimension W

YUJI IWAHARA



FILE.16
THE OTHERWORLDLY

MAYBE WE SHOULD TURN AROUND AND GO HOME?

...MR. KYOUMA ?

BO

HAAH?

WHAT'S GOT YOUR WIRES CROSSED? NO.

BO

BO GRRRM

BO

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS—

FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD ...

...HE SAID THAT PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THEM HERE!

BUT, BUT...

FU (SST)

MR. KYOUMA, LOOK OUT!!!

!!!


Dimension W
3
YUJI IWAHARA



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3-D MODEL DESIGN: TOSHIKAZU SENBA

DON'T SEE ANY DENTS OR SCRATCH-ES ON THE HOOD OR THE FRONT GRILL.

BO

BO

NOTHING UNDER THE BODY EITHER...

BO

BO (PUTTER)

BO

HUH?

WHA...?

GON (CLONK)

MEEP!

THERE WAS NOBODY THERE, DUMBASS!

YOWCH!

WHY'S YOUR HEAD GOTTA BE SO HARD?

I KNOW I SAW A WOMAN IN A WHITE DRESS.....

HOW ODD...

EITHER YOUR EYES ARE DEFECTIVE, OR THERE'S AN ERROR IN YOUR IMAGE RECOGNITION SYSTEM.

I KEEP TELLIN' YOU THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.

OH MY GOSH. WHAT IF IT WAS... A GHOST?

.....

BO

BO

BO

BO (PUTTER)

I SAW HER—I SWEAR!

YES, IT IS!

IS YOUR HEAD SCREWED BACK ON RIGHT?

BECAUSE THERE WAS NOBODY THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, SEE?

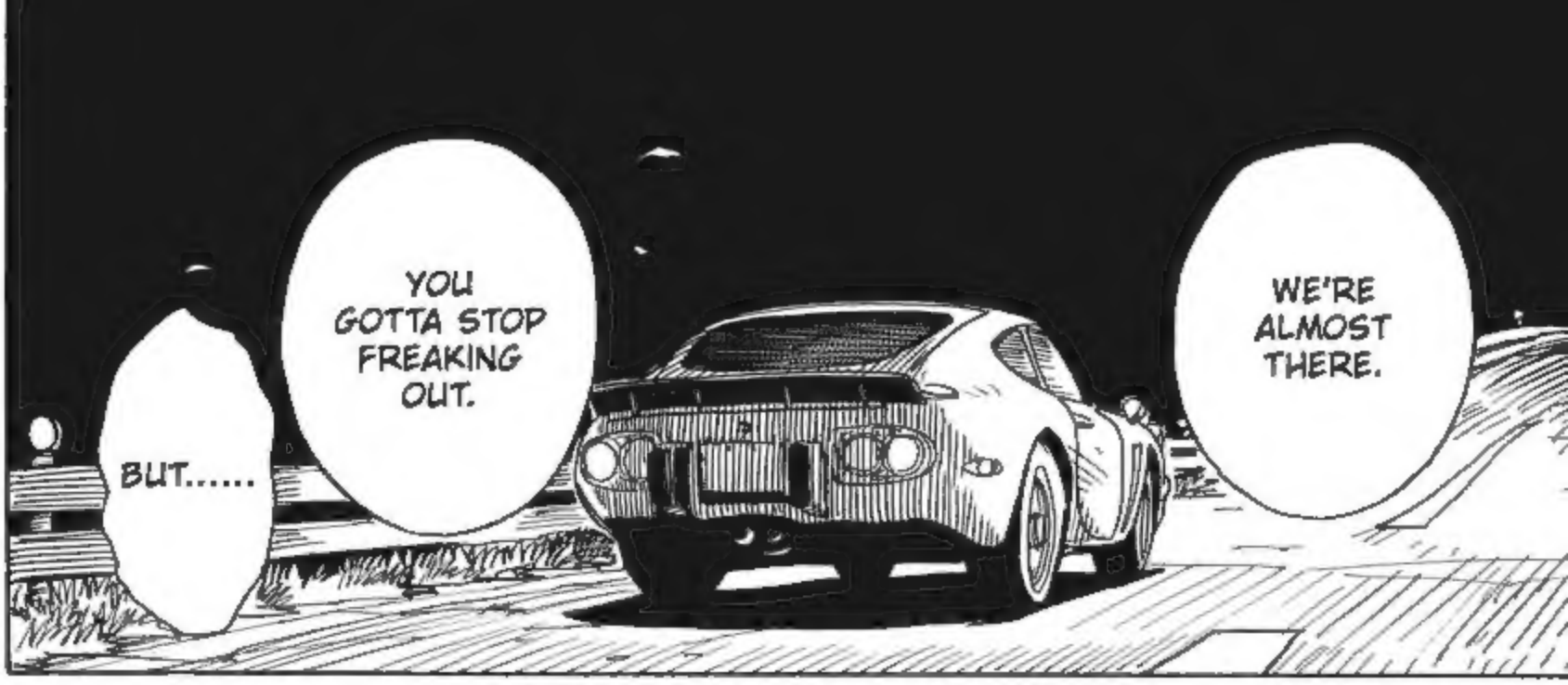
WHY...?

...SHE'S GONE!

WHAT?

I CAN EVEN BRING IT UP IN MY LOGS—

GACHA (KACHAK)
ガチャ
...SHEESH. A ROBOT, AFRAID OF GHOSTS? GIMME A BREAK.
BO
I REALLY DID SEE HER. I KNOW IT...!
BO
.....
BLION (REV)
GET IN, OR I'M LEAVIN' YOU HERE.
D-
DON'T!
GACHA
I NEVER SHOULDA AGREED TO THIS GIG...
TCH.
I'M GETTING IN! I'M GETTING IN!


BUT.....
YOU GOTTA STOP FREAKING OUT.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.


ARE YOU LISTENING TO A WORD I'M SAYING, ROBOT...?


24 HOURS EARLIER
MARY'S

I WONDER WHY SHE ASKED US HERE?

FOR A COLLEC-TION JOB. WHAT ELSE?

ONLY BECAUSE MOST OF THE PATRONS AIN'T SEEN HER DARK SIDE.

MISS MARY'S BAR IS ALWAYS SO CROWDED.

OH, I'LL HAVE A WATER, PLEASE.

ICED. MATCHA TEA.

CAN I BRING YOU TWO ANYTHING ELSE TO DRINK?

BEATS ME WHY SHE SAID TO BRING YOU ALONG...

BEEN WAITING LONG?

HRUMPH.

O-OH. SO SORRY FOR THE MIX-UP.

GUESTS OF MAMA'S GET SPECIAL TREATMENT.

YES, WE DO, NEWBIE!

UM, SIR...? I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE MATCHA HERE...

UP.

THE CLIENT'S WAITING IN THE BACK.

YOU'LL BE WAITING OUT HERE.

NOT SO FAST.

GATA ガタ

ガタ...

(GATA (KTUNK)

YES, MA'AM.

YOU TOLD ME TO BRING HER, MARY.

NOT GIVEN WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH...

BECAUSE WE CAN'T TAKE OUR EYES OFF OF HER.

HUH...?

DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND STAY PUT.

BUT, UM, I...

WE CAN'T SLIP UP AND LET HIM MEET MIRA UNTIL WE KNOW HIS HAND.

(BEEP)

VIP ROOM

YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN SOON ENOUGH.

WHO IS IT?

YOU MEAN THE CLIENT?

!

...MABUCHI.

HELLO THERE...

GATA (KTUNK)

PERHAPS IT'S MEANT TO BE?

WE SEEM TO BE BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER OFTEN THESE DAYS.

...YOU.

ALBERT.

DON'T BE SO SHY, MY FRIEND.

HA HA HA!

LIKE HELL WE ARE!

HA-HA-HA. DON'T GO! AREN'T WE FRIENDS?

COME NOW!

I'M OUT.

TCH!

FORGIVE ME, MARY.

I'M NOT HERE TO WATCH A COMEDY ROUTINE.

SIT DOWN, BOTH OF YOU.

I NEED TO FORMALLY SUBMIT A COLLECTION REQUEST.

...BUT AS CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF THE NEW TESLA ENERGY DIMENSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU.

I AM NOT HERE TODAY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN...

VERY WELL.

START TALKING.

SIGH.

I HOPE MR. KYOUMA IS PAYING ATTENTION ...

BUT MY BODY CAN'T CONSUME ANYTHING ELSE.

.....WATER ISN'T MUCH OF A WAY TO PASS THE TIME...

BUT EAVES-DROPPING WOULD BE WRONG, AS A PERSON.

I COULD LISTEN IN FROM HERE, IF I WANTED TO.

PA

PI (BEEP)

PI

PA (FLICKER)

THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE LAST WEEKEND AT LAKE YASOGAMI IN SHINSHUU.

...FIRST, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.

THE DECEASED...

榊四十郎

有名小説家　死の謎

...IS A FAMOUS HORROR MYSTERY NOVELIST.

ONE MR. SHIJUUROU SAKAKI.

FLOWER OF ASBESTOS SHIJUUROU SAKAKI

HEADLINE TEXT: SHIJUUROU SAKAKI, DEATH OF FAMOUS NOVELIST REMAINS A MYSTERY

榊四十郎

有名小説家　死の謎

HE SPENT MORE TIME BRINGING THE DISGUSTING DEATH SCENES TO LIFE THAN THE PLOT ITSELF.

THAT'S HIS MOST FAMOUS WORK. I'VE READ IT TOO. TASTELESS BOOK.

I'VE HEARD OF THIS GUY.

... FLOWER OF ASBESTOS, I THINK.

SEEN ONE OF THE MOVIE ADAPTATIONS.

THEY SCARE THEM-SELVES WITH IMAGINARY DEATH...

...'COS THEY'VE NEVER STARED REAL DEATH IN THE FACE.

ONLY IDIOTS BELIEVE IN THE OCCULT.

WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP.

HIS BOOKS ARE PACKED WITH EVIL SPIRITS AND MONSTERS.

NATURALLY, THE MEDIA IS GOING ON ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS A SUPERNATURAL COMPONENT TO HIS DEATH.

HMM-HMM.

VERY TRUE.

BUT...

THEY DON'T TURN TRANSPARENT AND POP OUT AT PEOPLE.

THEY AIN'T GONNA GET UP AN' MOVE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO.

WHEN SOME-BODY DIES, THAT'S THAT.

WE HAVE NO EXPLA-NATION FOR HIS DEMISE.

PI (BEEP)

THE PHYSICAL CAUSE OF HIS DEATH IS CLEAR, BUT THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT ARE NOT.

...YOU'VE HEARD THE SAYING, "WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE"?

EXPLAIN.

THE PLACE OF DEATH— MR. SAKAKI'S HOME ON LAKE YASOGAMI, IN HIS STUDY.

PA (BLIP)

THE CAUSE OF DEATH— DROWNING, DUE TO WATER IN HIS LUNGS.

BECAUSE OF THE DARK LIGHTING, THE MAID WHO DISCOVERED HIS BODY BELIEVED SHE SAW A POOL OF BLOOD.

HOW-EVER, THE LIQUID ON THE CARPET WAS MERELY WATER.

PA

PA

THERE WERE NO TRACES OF ANYONE ENTERING OR LEAVING THE ROOM BEFORE HER ARRIVAL.

HE WAS ACCOM-PANIED ONLY BY AN OLD HOUSE-KEEPING BOT.

THE WATER DISPENSER PLACED BY THE DOOR OF THE STUDY WAS EMPTY WHEN THE MAID FOUND THE SCENE.

SO THEY FORCED THAT INTO HIM?

THE ROBOT WAS EQUIPPED WITH, AGAIN, ORDINARY WATER.

WHERE WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH WATER TO DROWN A GUY IN A STUDY?

IF A ROBOT'S REPROGRAMMED OR IF ANYTHING'S NOT UP TO SNUFF, ITS COIL NOTIFIES NEW TESLA, AND IT SHUTS DOWN PRONTO.

ORDINARILY, ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED NOT TO HURT PEOPLE, AND THEIR COILS MONITOR FOR POTENTIALLY HARMFUL ACTIONS.

WHO?

WHO ELSE? THE ROBOT.

YOU'RE SENDING ME TO COLLECT THAT COIL, THEN?

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, AL?

...YOU'D HAVE TO POWER IT WITH AN ILLEGAL COIL THAT WON'T REPORT TO NEW TESLA AND SHUT DOWN THE BOT.

SO, IF YOU WANT TO USE A ROBOT FOR MURDER...

HUHN?

WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT ITS COIL IS IN TIP-TOP SHAPE, AND THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE COIL BEING SWITCHED WITH AN ILLEGAL ONE AT ANY POINT.

THE ROBOT HAS ALREADY BEEN IN-SPECTED.

I WOULD NEVER PUSH SUCH A DULL JOB ONTO YOU.

I'M AFRAID NOT, MABUCHI.

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.

P1 (BEER)

THEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM.

IT'S A VIDEO FROM THE TIME OF MR. SAKAKI'S DEATH.

WE TOOK THIS FROM HOUSE-KEEPING ROBOT HKR071'S LOGS.

.....

ZAZA (FWT)

Nega-tive.

It's all about rhythm.

Know what I mean, Keebo?

KATA

I can't write without one.

KATA

KATA

Nothing beats these old physical key-boards...

YET THE VIDEO IS NOT CORRUPT.

SO IT IS.

THE IMAGE IS DISTORTED.

Oh, you little fool.

KATA

KATA

An average of 149.6 million kilometers, sir.

Keebo, what is the distance from Earth to the sun?

There we are...

Bah. I'm parched.

FOUR.

YOU RECORD THIS TOO.

KYU (VWEEN)

KATA
KATA
ハイーン
(VWEEN)
!
Keebo, bring me a cup of water.
Affirmative.
ZA ZA
ZA
ZA
SW (STAND)
...Master.
Yes, Keebo?
GATA (KLUNK)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
IT'S GETTING WORSE.

!!?

Keebo—

...

ZA ZA ZA

Your water...

GATA GLATTER

Gwah!

ZA PWTO

YES, INEXPLICABLY.

IT CUTS OUT AT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!

.....

THE IMAGE RETURNS TWO MINUTES AFTER BLACKING OUT...

YET THIS PART DOES NOT DISPLAY CORRECTLY.

Koff...

Hack!

...ster.

THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE SYSTEM.

KII (CREAK)

Sir? I brought your late-night snack.

→nok←
→nok←

...Sir?

ZA

ZA (FWTD)

...AND THIS IS WHAT WE FIND.

Gack!

...IT IS CLEAR THAT AN UNKNOWN ENTITY INTERFERED WITH A LEGAL COIL.

WHETHER THE ROBOT FORCED THE WATER INTO HIM...

...OR ANOTHER FACTOR WAS AT WORK...

Aiieeee!

...IS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE SYSTEM, THIS IS A LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY.

THE MOST CRUCIAL FACT HERE...

THAT'S A REAL HEAD-SCRATCHER.

I SEE. INTER-ESTING.

...AND BRING IT BACK TO YOU.

SO, YOU WANT ME TO TRACK DOWN *THE SOURCE OF THE INTERFER-ENCE*...

HMM?

BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT DOESN'T ADD UP.

YOU WILL? MARVEL-OUS!

ALL RIGHT.

I'LL TAKE THE JOB.

BUT EVEN IF THAT WEREN'T SO, THE TROOPS ARE LOATH TO GO.

TRUE, WE ARE PREOCCU-PIED WITH ANOTHER CASE.

WHAT?

...AH. THAT.

WHY WOULD YOU COME TO ME?

IS D.A.B. THAT SHORT-HANDED?

LAKE YASOGAMI, WHERE THE DECEASED LIVED...

...IS FAMOUS FOR ITS OTHER RESIDENTS.

"WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE"?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?

THE OTHERWORLDLY.

-UH-
(WHOOM)

THEY SAY THAT EVEN THE LOCALS AVOID THE LAKE.

BUT THE FACT STANDS THAT THE LEGEND IS WELL-KNOWN.

HA-HA-HA! CERTAINLY NOT.

.....

DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVE THAT CRAP TOO.

.....

HIS YOUNGER SISTER STILL KEEPS PART OF THE HOTEL OPERATIONAL, TO CATER TO THE CURIOUS.

THE LATE MR. SAKAKI'S MANOR WAS ORIGINALLY A HOTEL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE ECCEN-TRICS WHO WILLINGLY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SEE IT.

THIS TIME, I'M CHARGING YOU THE COLLECTION FEE AND AN INVESTIGATION FEE.

FIVE HUNDRED UP FRONT FOR THE INVESTIGATION.

MY COMMISSION IS 50%, AS ALWAYS.

NEW TESLA PICKS UP THE TAB FOR ANY EXPENSES TOO.

SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE REACHED AN AGREEMENT, THEN.

SU (STAND)

YOU COULD USE IT AS YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS.

THEN WE HAVE A DEAL.

NOPE.

NONE.

ANY OBJECTIONS?

...!

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME THAT YOU'VE BEEN TAKING A GIRL ALONG WITH YOU ON THE JOB THESE DAYS, MABUCHI.

YOU'LL BE BRINGING HER THIS TIME AS WELL, I PRESUME?

?

!

SU

...AH YES. BEFORE I FORGET.

MARY?

I'LL EXPLAIN, KYOUMA.

IT SEEMS IT WOULD BE BEST TO ***CLEAR THIS UP*** EARLY.

YOU'LL INTRO-DUCE US SOMETIME, WON'T YOU?

...NO POINT IN INTRO-DUCING YOU, IT'S NOT—

YOU LISTEN HERE.

THAT "GIRL" IS...

YOU GOT THAT!?

YOU CAN'T BE FREAKING OUT OVER MAKE-BELIEVE CRAP LIKE GHOSTS.

IF THEY'RE WATCHING OR WE'RE ON THE JOB, YOU'RE GONNA ACT EMOTION-LESS LIKE A PROPER ROBOT.

I...I'LL DO MY BEST...

—THE PRESENT

BO BRRM.

BO

BO

WE COULDN'T KEEP YOU OUT OF SIGHT FOREVER. NOT FROM THE D.A.B.

WE'RE GOING WITH THE STORY THAT YOU'RE AN ANDROID I'M BORROWING FROM MARY.

...AND THAT BRINGS YOU UP TO SPEED.

FILE.17 THE GUESTS



HOU

HOU

HOU (HOOT)

HOTEL YASOGAMI

HOU

BO-BO

BO

ZA

ZA (CRUNCH)

BO

BO (BRRM)

...

...THIS MUST BE WHAT "CREEPY" FEELS LIKE.

...SO THIS IS HOTEL YASOGAMI...

BO

BO

BO

...AND THE HOME OF SHIJUUROU SAKAKI, WHOSE DEATH IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

THAT WAS ALSO ORIGINALLY A HOTEL, RIGHT?

IF THE FRONT IS THE HOTEL, THEN THE BIG DARK SECTION MUST BE HIS HOME...

HRM?

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY UNUSUAL GUESTS CHECKING IN.

WH-WHAT IS IT?

PARKING LOT'S BIG AND EMPTY TOO.

BEATS ME WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO LIVE HERE.

IT'S WAY TOO MUCH SPACE, EVEN WITH A LIVE-IN STAFF.

THE P9928 SPIDER.

...AND A MONSTER OF AN AUTOMOBILE WITH EIGHT MOTORS FOR FOUR WHEELS, RELEASED JUST LAST YEAR.

A GASOLINE-POWERED MORGAN 4/4...

A MORGAN 4/4?

136 YEARS LATER, MORGAN IS STILL PRODUCING THEM. THIS ONE AIN'T THAT OLD.

YEAH. "DEVEL-OPED."

ACCORDING TO MY LIBRARIES, THAT MODEL WAS DEVELOPED IN 1936!

WHAT'S MORE, THE MORGAN HAS A BEGINNER DRIVER'S DECAL ON IT, HUH?

KI (SKREE)

キ!!!

...EH, NEVER MIND. LET'S GET OUT.

OKAY.

PI (BEEP)

ピ

AND THE P9928 IS.....

ピピピ

CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND THE OTHER GUESTS.

VU

VU

VU (VUM)

PATA

PATA (FLUTTER)

...HOW ROBOTIC SHOULD I ACT, EXACTLY?

JUST TO CONFIRM...

...UM, MR. KYOUMA?

WHAT'D YOU DO WHEN YOU COULDN'T HIDE THAT YOU'RE A ROBOT?

IN THAT GET-UP.

YOU SPENT TWO YEARS SLIPPING PAST THE D.A.B.'S RADAR WITH DR. YURIZAKI, DIDN'T YOU?

HUH!?

...AW, HELL. THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW.

I...

...

WHAT'D DR. SHIDOU TEACH YOU?

THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST LEARN FIRST.

PAY ATTENTION, NOW...

MIRA.

...MIRA.

FEAR...

...AND HUMAN PAIN.

FEAR

A.J. "CYREEN"

...DON'T WORRY, I'M LISTENING.

RIGHT.

...I THINK I CAN PULL IT OFF.

AH!

...ARE YOU LISTENING?

...HEY.

HEY!

WELCOME, MR. MABUCHI.

NOW I'M MORE WORRIED.

THIS IS MY ROBOT FACE.

YES.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

WE'VE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE.

...AND ZOYA ANTUFIEV.

...RENATA ANTUFIEV...

WE ARE THE HOTEL YASOGAMI BELLGIRLS ...

NO. WE'RE TWINS FROM UKRAINE. HUMANS THROUGH AND THROUGH.

WE GET THAT A LOT. PEOPLE SAY WE LOOK LIKE DOLLS.

YOU ARE BEING IMPOLITE, MR. KYOUMA, SIR.

YOU TWO AIN'T ROBOTS, ARE YA?

NOT THIS AGAIN.

TWINS?

PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.

RIGHT. THANKS.

WE'LL TAKE YOUR BAGS.

SHADDAP, ROBOT!

I ADVISE AN APOLOGY, SIR.

SIR. SIR. SIR.

COOM

FUUUU (FWOO)

7

フゥ

(SWSH)

PLEASE, GO ON IN.

ギィィ (CREAK)

ガチャ

GACHA (KACHAK)

M...

MR. KYOU-MA!!

WELL, I'LL BE.

THERE'S THE BEST-SELLING NOVELIST WHO DIED BEFORE HIS TIME.

WELCOMED BY A PORTRAIT OF SHIJUUROU SAKAKI HIMSELF, HUH?

THE MONSTER HEADS FLANKING THE PORTRAIT ARE THE ANGEL AND DEVIL THAT HAUNT THE MAIN CHARACTER OF HIS BEST-KNOWN WORK, *FLOWER OF ASBESTOS*.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE SKELETON ON THE WALL BEHIND HIS PORTRAIT...

...IS BASED ON THE SOURCE OF THE "VIRUS OF DEATH" THAT APPEARS IN THE NOVEL *CHOMP*.

MOST OF THE GUESTS WHO VISIT OUR HOTEL ARE FANS OF MASTER SHIJUUROU'S WORK.

YOU ARE CORRECT, SIR.

THE BUILDING IS DECORATED ACCORDINGLY.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU HERE, MR. KYOUMA MABUCHI.

MY NAME IS SEIJUN MAKITA.

I AM THE HOTEL YASOGAMI STAFF MANAGER.

WHO'RE YOU?

AH, I SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED MYSELF.

GIKU (CLICK)

SHAKU (CLACK)

YOU DIDN'T CLOSE THE HOTEL?

THE HOTEL WAS CLOSED FOR THREE DAYS WHILE THE POLICE INVESTIGATED.

...MASTER SHIJUUROU'S PASSING WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK TO US ALL...

NEW TESLA ENERGY INFORMED ME OF THE PURPOSE OF YOUR STAY.

WE WILL HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

MOREOVER, A LARGE NUMBER OF GUESTS HAVE CANCELED THEIR RESERVATIONS. I'M AFRAID THE HOTEL MAY SOON BE FORCED TO SHUT DOWN FOR GOOD...

バタン
BATAN (SLAM)

THEY TOOK HIS PASSING AS PROOF THAT YASOGAMI IS HAUNTED.

HOWEVER, SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS WERE SPOOKED BY MASTER SHIJUUROU'S DEATH AND RESIGNED FROM THEIR POSTS.

WE RE-OPENED ON THE FOURTH DAY.

GIKU (CLICK)

JUST MY IMAGINATION...

SHAKU (CLACK)

...IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.

PRECISELY, SIR.

...AND THE ECCENTRICS WHO COME BECAUSE THEY DO BELIEVE, HUH...

...THAT LEAVES THE BOLD FEW WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS...

THAT IS WHY I REMAIN.

I WILL WATCH OVER OUR HOTEL UNTIL THE VERY END.

HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. MAKITA?

MYSELF?

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...

...CLEARLY MY SENSORS NEED CALIBRATION.

スー (SUWFF)

RIGHT, THAT'S ALL IT WAS.

HMM...

!!!?

PON (POMF)

WELCOME TO THE LAKE OF DEATH!

I'M PRESIDENT OF THE HORROR RESEARCH CLUB AT SANKAI UNIVERSITY.

AHA-HA-HA-HA-HA! SORRY, SORRY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE SNUCK UP ON YOU!

...

OH, MY NAME'S MISUZU MIDORIKAWA.

I'M SOOO HAPPY TO RUN INTO ANOTHER COSPLAYER. I JUST HAD TO TALK TO YOU.

THAT'S A FRANKEN-STEIN'S MONSTER COSTUME, RIGHT? RIGHT?

TO BE FAIR, I'M ONLY PRESIDENT BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY CLUB MEMBER, HA-HA!

OH, BUT I FOUND A FELLOW MYSTERY-LOVER ON THE INTERNET, AND WE'RE HERE TOGETHER.

BUT IT LOOKS SO REALIS-TIC!!

REALLY !?

WHAT? NO WAY!

THAT'S NO COSTUME. IT'S AN ANDROID.

BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, LASS.

... HUH?

THAT'S WHY IT LOOKS ULTRA-REALISTIC.

THAT MODEL WAS ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED FOR MEDICAL USE. TRANSPLANT PARTS FOR HUMANS.

OH, GEEZ!

LET'S SEE NOW... I THINK IT'S... FROZEN? MAYBE?

NOWADAYS, I EKE OUT A LIVING WRITING TRAVEL ESSAYS, COLUMNS, AND WHATNOT.

I'M ATSUSHI HAGEYAMA.

I USED TO BE A DOCTOR, YOU SEE.

HELLO.

AH, YES.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF.

I'M HERE TO DO A LITTLE INVESTI-GATING.

...THE NAME'S KYOUMA MABUCHI. COLLEC-TOR.

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A NINE-TO-FIVER. AM I RIGHT?

...AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

I KNEW SHIJUUROU FROM WAY BACK. I STAYED BEHIND AFTER THE FUNERAL.

I'M CONSIDERING WRITING HIS BIOGRAPHY, NOW THAT HE'S GONE.

THE BUS, THEN. GOT IT.

THANKS.

NO, ACTUALLY.

I MAKE IT A POINT TO TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

I TAKE IT THAT RV OUT FRONT IS YOURS, THEN?

AH-HA! A COLLECTOR ...

OHO...

WOW!

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.

SAY HELLO.

I AM MIRA.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

10T

PAAN (SMACK)

HEY. HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA BE ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL?

I'M SORRY, MR. KYOUMA.

AH!

THE MYS-TERY OF HIS DEATH, HMM?

.....

I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET TO MEET ANYONE SO COOL! I MUST BE LUCKY!

I CAME HERE TO TRY MY HAND AT SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT MR. SAKAKI'S DEATH. I'M A BIG FAN.

GOSH, WHAT A WELL-MADE ANDROID!

I KNOW!

LET'S BE FRIENDS!

CAN WE?

...AFFIR-MATIVE...

THAT GIRL.

IS SHE TRULY AN ANDROID?

KA

KO

I, FOR ONE, AM NOT CONVINCED.

KA (CLACK)

KO (CLOP)

OR...

...IS SHE MERELY *ACTING* THE PART?

KA (CLACK)

KO (CLOP)

KA

...AM ELIZABETH GREENHOUGH-SMITH.

I...

OOH! ELLIE!

THE MORGAN, THEN?

AND SHE'S SOOO GOOD AT DRIVING!

...BUT SHE HAS THE COOLEST CAR!

SHE'S A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME AND ONLY JUST GOT HER LICENSE...

ELLIE IS JUST INCREDI-BLE!

!?

GA (GWSH)

SO TINY...

TINY GIRL...

I'LL NEED TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE.

.....

YETH, MITH...

AAA

NO BITING, PLEASE.

AND A HIGH-END ONE, TO BOOT ...

...CASE CLOSED. THIS IS INDEED AN ANDROID...

IP

PA (RELEASE)

...BUT NO SMELL, DROOL, OR SO ON...

THERE'S SWEAT AND SALIVA RECREATED FROM WATER INTAKE...

SEE YOU LATER, MIRA!

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.

I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SO UNCOUTH, MR. MABUCHI.

...AND TO YOU AS WELL, MISS MIRA.

NOW THIS IS A FUN TWIST.

HEE HEE HEE.

YOUR ROOM IS READY.

MR. MABUCHI.

LOBBY'S ON FLOOR TWO.

EIGHTEEN GUEST ROOMS BETWEEN FLOORS TWO AND THREE.

FLOOR ONE WOULD BE THE RESTAU-RANT AND THE LOUNGE, THEN?

YOUR ROOM IS ON THE THIRD FLOOR, DOWN THE LEFT HALL.

AND THEN THERE ARE THE GUYS WHO'VE BEEN STARING SINCE WE CAME IN.

GACHA (KACHK)

YOUR ROOM.

AND FINALLY, THE P9928 BELONGS TO...

THE CHEAPO RV.

THEY'D BE OUR "COL-LEAGUES."

I KNEW IT. IT'S YOURS, ISN'T IT...?

.....

...ALBERT!!

WHY HELLO THERE, MABUCHI!

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

FILE.18
OLD FRIENDS



...MABÜCHI!

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE...

BUO (WHIZ)

TUT TUT!

BA BA BA (WHOOSH)

ENJOY YOUR STAY.

PEKO (BOW)

PLEASE... S R!

ERM... YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 208 OF THE PENAL CODE!

DON'T!

MR. KYOU-MA!

YOU WERE LYING THROUGH YOUR GOD-DAMN TEETH WHEN YOU SAID YOU HAD NO ONE ELSE TO SEND!

THIS AIN'T NO COINCI-DENCE!

SHADD-AP!

PASH! (THWAP)

BA

BA

BA

PASHI

AREN'T YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO YOUR PARTNER?

HA HA HA!

DOGO (WHOMP)

PAN (SMACK)

HRK!

...AL-BERT!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...

COME NOW, MABUCHI. DON'T BE SO ANGRY!

O-OH DEAR.

IF I MOVE WITHOUT "ORDERS," I COULD BLOW MY COVER...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

VACA-TION?

I SIMPLY LEFT OUT MY VACATION PLANS.

I DIDN'T LIE ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE JOB. AND IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT NO ONE WANTED TO BE SENT HERE.

EVEN I DON'T WORK 365 DAYS A YEAR.

NOW, SEEING AS I'M ON VACATION, I WON'T TELL YOU HOW TO DO YOUR JOB.

BEING HERE SEEMED EXPONENTIALLY MORE FUN, SO I MADE A LAST-MINUTE CHANGE TO MY VACATION DESTINATION.

I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON VACA-TIONING AT A TROPICAL ISLAND. BUT THEN THIS JOB CAME UP, AND YOU ACCEPTED IT.

YEAH, WELL, I PLAN ON AVOIDIN' ANY "HELP" FROM YOU.

I DROPPED IN TO LET YOU KNOW.

NOT THAT I WOULD OBJECT TO FILLING THE ROLE OF YOUR DIRECT PIPELINE TO NEW TESLA! BUT FOR THE MOST PART, I PLAN TO RELAX. CHEERS.

LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR NEW PARTNER BEFORE YOU SHOW ME THE DOOR...

NOW, NOW! DON'T BE SO HASTY, MABUCHI!

THIS ROOM'S MINE.

YOU DONE? DOOR'S THATTA WAY.

.....

DOGA KWHAM!

...OUT!

...GET YOUR ASS...

HMM.

MR. KYOU-MA!

WE'RE THREE FLOORS UP!

THREE FLOORS AIN'T ENOUGH TO HURT THIS GUY.

9:00 P.M. SHARP, IN THE LOUNGE!

TOMOR-ROW!

HYUU (WHOOSH)

BUO (FWOO)

NI (GRIN)

SuTAN (STMP)

スタン

I'LL SEE YOU THERE!

ZA (SHFF)

ALL RIGHT, MABUCHI ?

JOIN ME FOR A DRINK, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE.

ANOTHER "BEAST" LIKE ME.

HE WAS IN GRENDEL TOO.

HE'D BETTER BE.

...HE'S INCREDI-BLE.

THE OTHER THREE ARE DEAD AND GONE.

I WAS THE "WOLF." ALBERT WAS THE "LYNX".....

IT WAS A TITLE GIVEN TO THE MOST SKILLED SOLDIERS IN GRENDEL. THE BEST OF THE BEST.

"BEAST"?

THERE WERE ONLY FIVE OF US.

.....

EH...

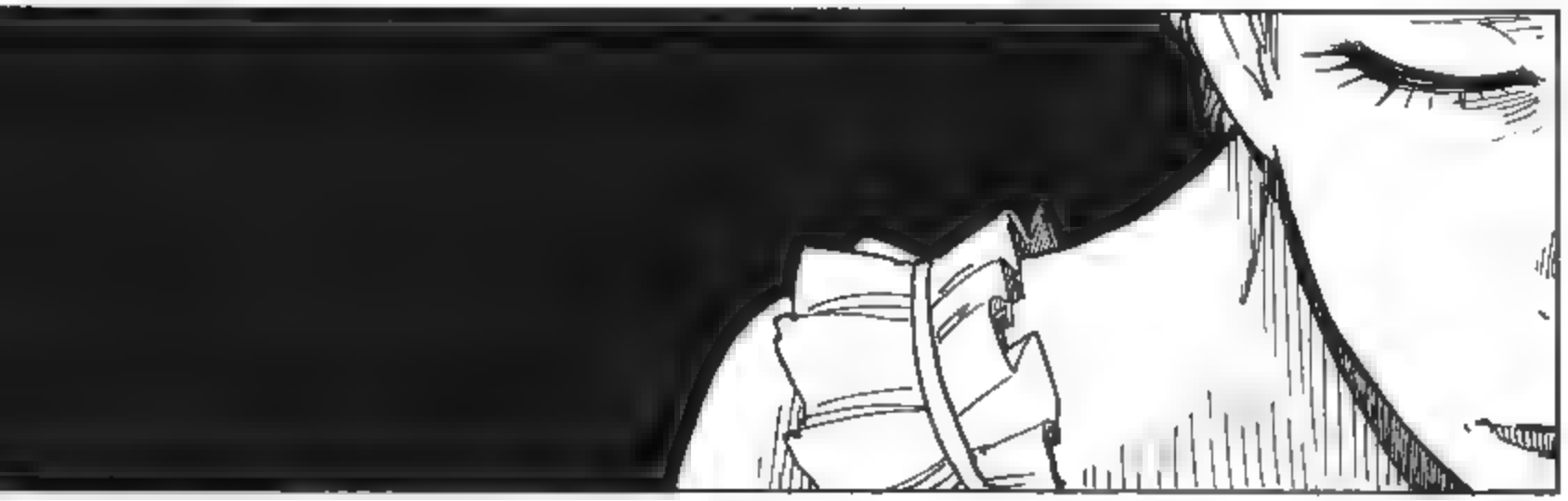
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY NOW.

I KNEW IT!

...SO. I'M TAKING THE BED.

YOU GET THE SOFA.






...BIG BROTHER ...
I'M SORRY...

HFF!
PASHA
HAA!
PASHA
PASHA
AUGH!
PASHA
PASHA (SPLASH)
HEE!
HAA
HAA
HAA (PANT)
?
ZO (DROP)
OOF!

GOBO (GULP)

GOBO

GOB

ZABON (SPLOOSH)

HYUUU (WHOO)

THE NEXT MORNING,
9:18 A.M.

BOKI (CRACK)

ボキ

BEKI (CROP)

ピキ

PEKI (CRACK)

TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

FIRST, WE'LL HAVE A LOOK-SEE...

...AT THE CRIME SCENE.

I'M THE MAID, KIYOMI KATOU...

I WORKED IN THE MANOR FOR MASTER SHIJUUROU AND HIS YOUNGER SISTER, MISTRESS MARISA.

Y-YES, SIR.

YOU FOUND THE BODY?

NOT THAT I EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING NEW AFTER THE POLICE WENT THROUGH THIS PLACE...

Y-YES, THAT'S CORRECT, SIR.

WHEN YOU OPENED THE DOOR, HE WAS ON THE FLOOR LIKE THIS?

ON THE DAY OF HIS DEATH, I BROUGHT THE FOOD UP AND FOUND HIM.

THE MASTER WOULD TAKE A MEAL AT THE SAME TIME EVERY NIGHT...

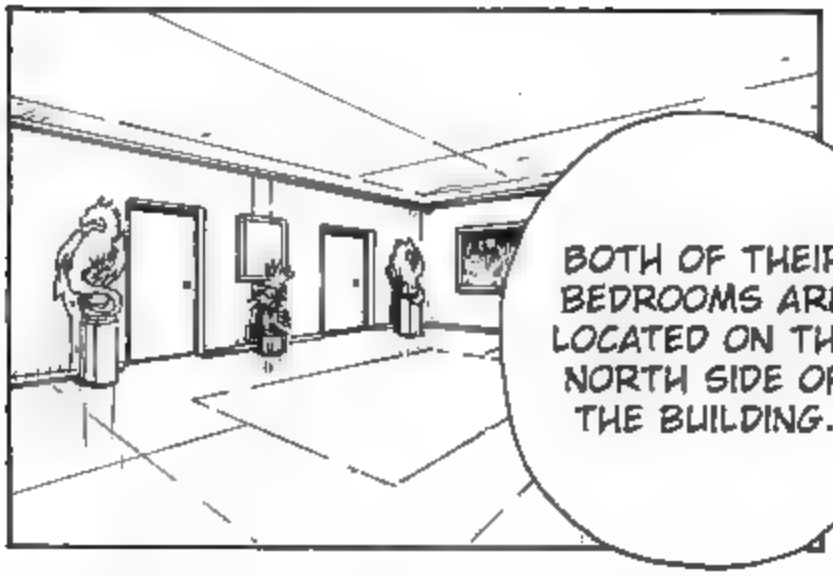
...AS YOU WISH, SIR.

WALK ME THROUGH THE EXACT PATH YOU TOOK TO THIS ROOM.

I NEED YOU TO DESCRIBE THE LAYOUT OF THE MANOR.

10 P.M., SIR.

WHAT TIME WAS THAT?



BOTH OF THEIR BEDROOMS ARE LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

MASTER SHIJUUROU AND MISTRESS MARISA LIVE HERE, ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE MANOR.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE, IN THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR, THERE IS A LIVING/DINING ROOM AND AN ELEVATOR.



FINALLY, MASTER SHIJUUROU'S STUDY AND LIBRARY ARE HERE IN THE WEST CORNER.



EMPTY, EH?



MASTER SHIJUUROU INSISTED ON WRITING IN SILENCE, SO WE KEPT THEM EMPTY.

WHAT ABOUT THE ROOMS NEXT TO 'EM?

...

YES, SIR.

MY OWN ROOM IS THERE TOO.

THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF THE MANOR. THEY'RE USED AS ROOMS FOR THE HOTEL STAFF, RIGHT?

I TAKE IT THROUGH THE STAFF-ONLY PASSAGE BETWEEN THE HOTEL AND THE MANOR, AND THEN UP THE ELEVATOR TO THIS FLOOR.

HIS BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER, AND LATE-NIGHT MEAL ARE ALL PREPARED IN THE KITCHEN ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE HOTEL.

NO ONE USES THEM. I BELIEVE THEY ARE KEPT LOCKED...

WHAT ABOUT FLOORS THREE THROUGH FIVE?

THESE BELONG TO MR. KEEBO, THE HOUSEKEEPING ROBOT.

...TRACKS...

キュン

KYUN (V.WRR)

...ALWAYS RETURNING TO THE VERY SAME SPOT.

HE MOVED ACROSS THIS ROOM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES...

KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA

FROM HERE, HE COULD SEE...

KATA (CLICKETY) KATA KATA KATA

MR. KEEBO WAS COMPLETELY DEVOTED.

COULD HE REALLY KILL HIS MASTER WITH NO HESITANCE AT ALL?

I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT HE COULDN'T.

I DID THINK IT WAS SUSPICIOUS.

BUT THE POLICE SAID THAT MASTER SHIJUUROU NEVER CLOSED IT THAT DAY.

THEY THINK HE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO.

THE DOOR. IT WAS CRACKED OPEN WHEN YOU ARRIVED, RIGHT?

Y-YES.

...AND THE ELEVATORS IN THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR.

ON THIS FLOOR, THERE ARE CAMERAS WATCHING THE EMERGENCY STAIRWELL JUST OUTSIDE OF THE STUDY...

O-OH, BUT...

SO MUCH FOR THIS BEIN' A LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY.

MISTRESS MARISA WAS IN THE HOTEL AT THE TIME, SO THERE WAS NO ONE TO HEAR ANY-THING...

NO. NO ONE.

WHAT ABOUT SOUNDS?

SOMEONE MUST'VE HEARD SOMETHIN'.

THE POLICE CHECKED INTO IT ALL AND SAID THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANYONE ENTERING OR LEAVING THIS FLOOR.

ALL OF THE WINDOWS HAVE SENSORS TOO.

YES, SIR?

ONE MORE THING.

ACTU-ALLY, WAIT.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THEN.

ALL RIGHT...

SORRY TO MAKE YOU COME BACK IN HERE.

THANKS. THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.

YOU EVER SEEN ANY GHOSTS HERE?

NO, I'VE SEEN NO SUCH THING.

.....

WHY DID YOU ASK, THEN?

TWO REASONS. FIRST, TO HAMMER SOME SENSE INTO THE HEAD OF A CERTAIN GHOST-FEARIN' HUNK OF JUNK.

I WAS SCARED HALF TO DEATH THAT SHE WOULD SAY, "I CAN SEE ONE RIGHT NOW."

YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV.

DON'T BE DUMB.

THOUGHT NOT.

HO (WHEW) ほっ

"H...HUNK OF JUNK"? DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING TOO HARSH?

SECOND ...

...IF SHE'D ANSWERED "YES," IT WOULD BE A CLUE. WE'D START LOOKING FOR SOME TRICK SET UP TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED.

HOW'S IT ON YOUR END?

NOTHING ELSE TO SEE HERE.

...ANYWAY, THE COPS TOOK HIS COMPUTER AND THE ROBOT.

HER ANSWER TELLS US THAT SHE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHIN' OUTTA PLACE.

BATAN (SLAM)

WE'RE LEAVIN', THEN.

ABNORMAL AIR COMPOSITION? DIMENSIONAL WARP?

YOU FIND ANYTHIN'?

JUST MR. KEEBO'S HARD-WORKING TRACKS...

...NOTHING BEYOND WHAT THE POLICE ALREADY DISCOVERED.

NEXT, WE PAY A VISIT TO THE SISTER. MARISA.

SHE DID JUST LOSE HER BROTHER.

...WE CAN'T BE TOO SURPRISED.

EVEN ROBOTS CAN SEE THE INCLINATIONS OF THE HUMAN HEART.

DON'T TALK LIKE YOU'D KNOW, ROBOT.

ESPECIALLY IN MY CASE. MY BRAIN WAS DESIGNED TO EMULATE THE HUMAN BRAIN, AFTER ALL.

...I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FEELS.

IF MISS MARISA WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE...

GET TO THE POINT.

IT'S LIKE... LIKE PLUCKING A CHAIN OF MENTAL IMAGES OUT OF A BILLOWING CLOUD...

LIKE MR. KOOROGI SAID, IT'S ORGANIC AND DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

...HONESTLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW MY OWN BRAIN WORKS.

HAVE YOU ALSO LOST A FAMILY MEMBER, LIKE MISS MARISA ...?

IF I HAD TO GUESS...

SORRY.

...ACTUALLY, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN HOW YOU MUST HAVE FELT. YOU BACKED OFF SO QUICKLY.

OH!

MIRA!

ARE YOU AND YOUR COMPANION ALSO TAKING A LATE LUNCH, MR. MABUCHI?

MY, MY!

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.

SIR?

GARI (SCRAPE)

GARI

GARI

MIND IF WE LADIES JOIN YOU?

SUIT YOUR-SELVES.

WHAT ABOUT ME!?

KACHA (CLINK)
カチャ

KACHA
カチャ

.....

MOGU
モグ

MOGU (CHEW)
モグ

IS IT OBVIOUS ENOUGH?

DING, DING!

YES, MISS MIDORI-KAWA?

.....I SEE YOU ARE WEARING A CHINESE-STYLE OUTFIT TODAY.

TO MR. HAGEYAMA!

SOME-THING HAS HAPPENED TO MASTER SHI-JUUROU'S FRIEND.

HAA!

HAA!

SA (SWEP)

...W...

WE HAVE AN EMERGEN-CY, MR. MABUCHI ...


Dimension



THIS WAY!

!

HAA!

HPF!

MR. HAGEYAMA STEPPED OUTSIDE LAST NIGHT. WHEN HE HADN'T RETURNED BY MORNING, I SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR HIM, WHEN I FOUND...

HAA!

HAA!

THE HOTEL MINIBUS ?

HOW DID IT WIND UP OUT HERE?

HAA!

HAA!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...

HOTEL YASOGAMI


FILE.19
UFO
YURAA (DRIFT)
ユラァ
HOTEL YASOGAMI
THE BUS...
BOTA (DRIBBLE)
ボタ
IT'S FILLED WITH WATER FROM FLOOR TO CEILING...

MR. KYOUMA! THERE'S A MAN INSIDE!

HE'S IN CARDIAC ARREST!

PIP (BEEP)

HUMAN

KYUN (VWRR)

!

HOW IS THAT EVEN ...?

I SEE 'IM.

IT'S THE FORMER DOCTOR. ATSUSHI HAGEYAMA.

WE MET IN THE LOBBY YESTER-DAY.

ANOTHER MYSTE-RIOUS DEATH...

... CAUSED BY WATER ...

...!!

OMIGOD ...!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT THAT LONG.

CHA (CLINK)

I SENT THE EMPLOYEE IN CHARGE OF THE KEY TO FETCH IT.

WHERE'S THE BUS KEY?

GASHAN (SHATTER)

ZAPAA (SPLOOSH)

HYU (WHIZ)

PIKI (CRACK)

KA (TAK)

ZABABABA (GUSH)

DOCHA (SPLAT)

ZABABA (FSSH)

HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR AT LEAST TWO HOURS.

.....

TOO LATE TO RESUSCI-TATE HIM.

...RIGOR MORTIS IS ALREADY SETTING IN...

I FOUND THE KEY.

WHAT?

... EXCUSE ME, MR. KYOUMA ?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

FIRST THINGS FIRST. CALL THE POLICE.

DECEASED

HE HAS IT.

...INSIDE HIS STOMACH.

...!

I-IT'S INSIDE HIM?

!

THE KEY IS ACTIVE.

YES.

ALL FOUR IN-WHEEL MOTORS ARE ACTIVE TOO.

PIDI (BEEP)

TOOT!!

ACTIVE

THE BUS ITSELF.

BASHA (DRIBBLE)

BASHA

ALSO...

MODERN KEYS DON'T EVEN NEED TO TOUCH THE IGNITION SWITCH. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED SO ONE CAN DRIVE SO LONG AS THE KEY IS ON ONE'S PERSON.

THAT THE BUS COULD STILL BE DRIVEN BY MR. HAGEYAMA.

...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

...DROVE THE BUS OUT HERE.

...MEANING IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HAGEYAMA HIMSELF...

...EVEN IF, HYPOTHETICALLY, THE KEY IS INSIDE YOUR STOMACH.

FILLING A VEHICLE WITH WATER FROM FLOOR TO CEILING? THAT'S NOT NORMAL!

...BUT... BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE WATER?

...BEFORE HE DIED FROM LACK OF OXYGEN.

YOU COULD THEORIZE THAT HE DROVE IT THIS FAR FILLED WITH WATER...

IT'S SLIMY. FINE TEXTURE. ROUND PELLETS.

LOOK HERE. MUD ON THE BODY AND THE TIRES.

AND THIS OLD TRAIL LEADS TO...

LAKE YASOGAMI!

YUP. YOU GET THE PICTURE.

I DETECT ALGAE, PLANKTON, AND OTHER MICRO-ORGANISMS.

THAT DOES FIT WITH AN ANALYSIS OF THE WATER LEAKING FROM THE BUS.

PRETTY NATURAL CONCLU-SION TO DRAW.

HE DROVE THE BUS UP HERE AFTER IT WAS COMPLETELY SUBMERGED IN THE WATER.

...BUT WOULDN'T IT BREAK DOWN?

AUTO-MOBILES MADE AFTER COILS CAME INTO USE ARE MOSTLY AIRTIGHT. THAT'S WHY THE WATER DIDN'T DRAIN.

IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU SUBMERGE A GLASS IN WATER, PUT YOUR HAND OVER IT, TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN, AND LIFT IT OUT.

YES, SIR.

HEY, YOU.

...BUT INSIDE THE CABIN...

WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING TO KEEP IT FROM DRIVING, EVEN UNDER-WATER.

THE DRIVE-TRAIN AND CONTROL UNIT ARE LOCATED ON THE UNDERSIDE, SO THEY'D BE WATER-PROOFED ...

DIAGNOSIS COMPLETE.

STRANGE ANDROID.

WHAT KIND OF ORDER IS "HEY, YOU"?

THAT'S SOME RATHER FLEXIBLE A.I.

KYUN (WHRR)

SCANNING FOR ABNOR-MALITIES.

VEHICLE SELF-DIAGNOSTIC PROGRAM ACCESSED.

NO REASON TO WATER-PROOF THE INSTRUMENTS INSIDE THE CABIN WHEN YOU DON'T EXPECT THEM TO NEED IT.

THUS, WHY HE DIDN'T OPEN THE DOORS OR WINDOWS.

THOUGHT SO.

REGULATOR UNITS FOR OPERATION OF THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE ALSO OFF-LINE.

INSTRUMENT PANEL: OFF-LINE. MONITOR: OFF-LINE. AUDIO: OFF-LINE. WARNING LIGHTS: OFF-LINE.

MEANING HAGEYAMA COULDN'T OPEN THEM NO MATTER HOW HE PAWED AT THEM... BECAUSE HE'D SWALLOWED THAT KEY.

...HOWEVER, IT WOULD REQUIRE PHYSICALLY UNLOCKING THEM WITH THE BUS KEY.

THEY CAN ALSO BE OPENED MANUALLY.

...HOW DID THAT HAPPEN...?

THE QUESTION IS...

...THE POWER...

ARE WE TRULY DEALING WITH...

...OF SOMETHING OTHER-WORLDLY?

TEXT: SHINSHUU POLICE

POLICE

UON

UON (VOOM)

HERE COME THE COPS.

.....

MR. KYOUMA.

ON (COOM)
オン
ON
オン
ON
オン

A "BARRIER BALLOON"... IF THEY'RE BRINGIN' OUT THE BIG TOYS, THEY'RE SERIOUS.

THAT POLICE BALLOON— THEY USE THOSE TO SEAL OFF AREAS...

GAPA (CLICK)

Attention, ladies and gentlemen. This is the Shinshuu Police.

This area will now be sealed off.

Do not attempt to leave the island. Thank you for your cooperation.

ON

ON

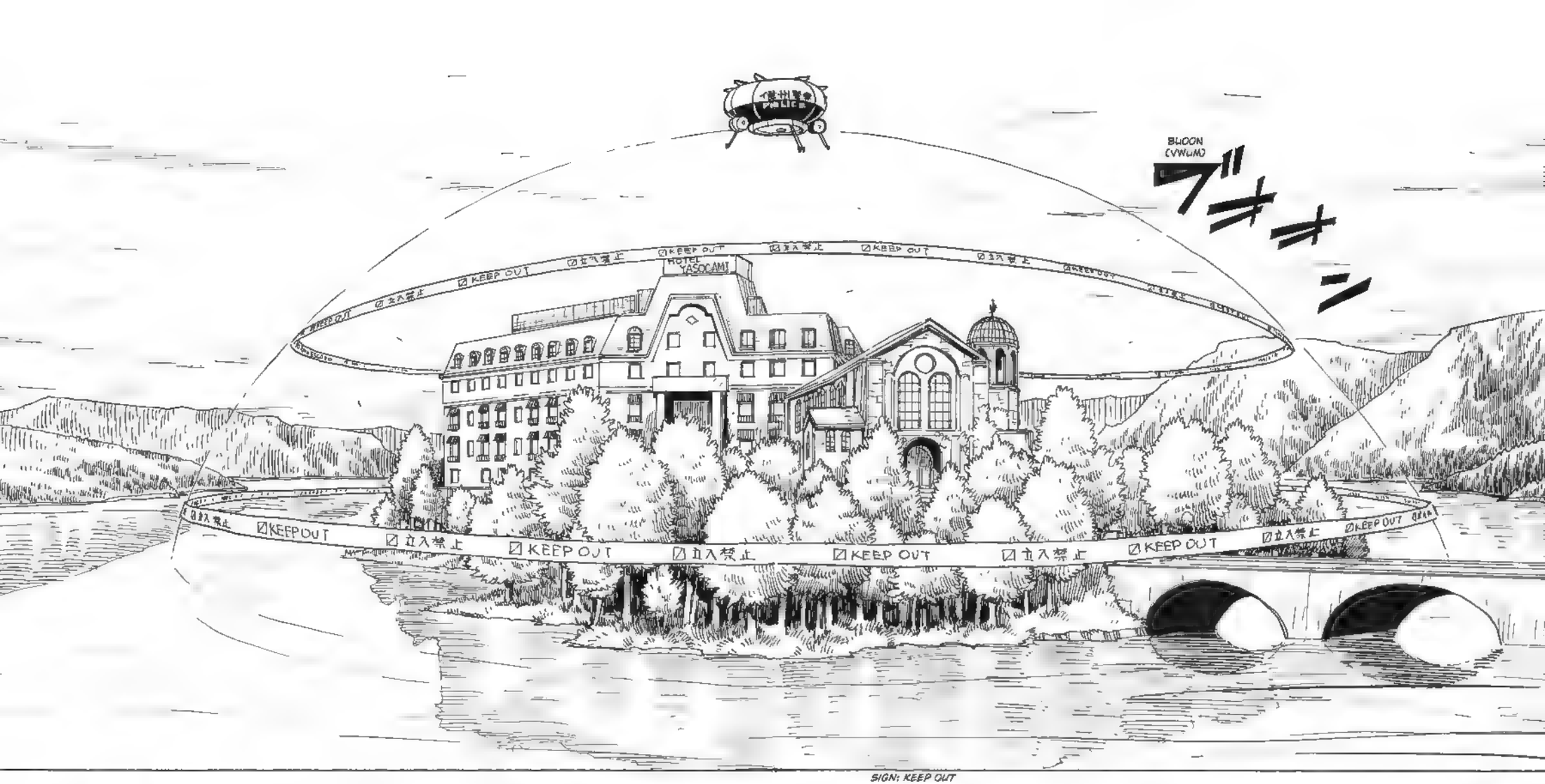
PASHU (PSH)

SHU

SHU

BUUU (WHRR)

BUUU



SIGN: KEEP OUT


NO ONE GETS IN OR OUT.
...AND DIGITALLY MARKS AND TRACKS ANYTHING THAT PASSES THROUGH THE BOUNDARY.
THEIR SYSTEM SCANS EVERYTHING IN LOCKDOWN...

SIGN: LOCKDOWN



I SHOULD THINK NOT!

...I KNEW IT.

NOT LIKE YOU WERE PLANNING ON IT ANYWAY, WERE YOU?

...WE COULDN'T LEAVE EVEN IF WE WANTED TO NOW.

TCH!

AH... COMING!

SHALL WE, MISS MIDORI-KAWA?

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO FIND OUT.

NOW, WHICH OF US WILL BE THE FIRST TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND THE "OTHER-WORLDLY POWERS" AT WORK HERE?

.....

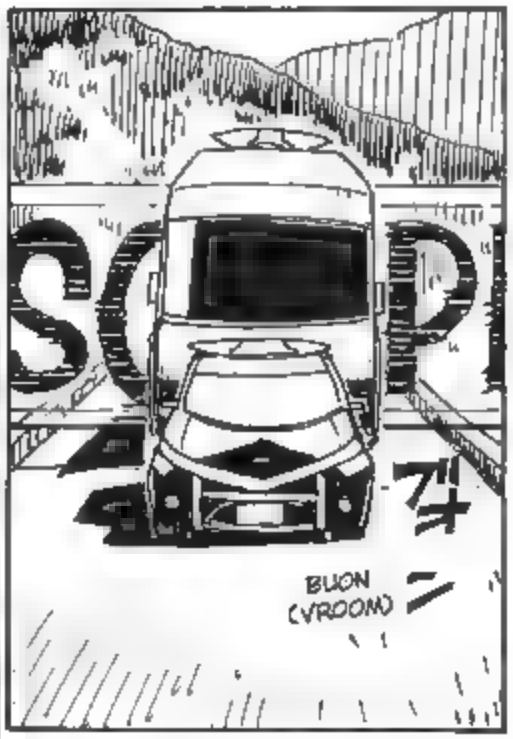
"OTHER-WORLDLY POWERS," HUH?





ARMBAND: SHINSHUU POLICE





AHEM... IS THIS EVERYONE?

WE ARE THE SHINSHUU POLICE, FIRST INVESTIGATION DIVISION. I AM DEPUTY DIRECTOR AYUMU JOUSHIMADA.

BE AWARE THAT YOU WILL BE UNDER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SURVEILLANCE.

THIS CRIME SCENE WILL REMAIN ON LOCKDOWN UNTIL WE CONCLUDE OUR INVESTIGATION.

...AND ONE MORE THING.

AM I CLEAR?

UNTIL THEN, YOU ARE TO WAIT IN THE HOTEL.

THOSE WHOSE ALIBIS HOLD WATER AND WHO ARE CLEARED BY MY OFFICERS WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

THEY EAT AWAY AT CRIME SCENES LIKE TERMITES! THEY'RE TRASH!

.....

I HATE COLLECTORS.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, SOME OF YOU ARE HERE ON ASSIGNMENT FOR NEW TESLA.

BUT WE WILL ARREST ANYONE WHO INTERFERES WITH THE INVESTIGATION OR THINKS THEY CAN PLAY DETECTIVE. NO EXCEPTIONS!

YOU'RE DISMISSED.

FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE...

...THERE AIN'T A SINGLE THING TO LIKE ABOUT US.

...WE'RE NOT VERY POPULAR WITH THE POLICE, ARE WE?

I'LL PUT IT TO REST THIS TIME. FOR GOOD.

THAT DAMN GHOST STORY TOO.

RED. WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE ROOM.

HEY! WAIT UP, BLUE!

THAT FAT-ASS'S DEATH PUT US IN HOT WATER...

TCH.

GACHA (KACHAK)

201

HOW CAN WE GO THROUGH WITH THE PLAN WITH THE COPS WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE?

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?

SERI-OUSLY, BLUE!

THAT COLLECTOR AND HIS ANDROID ARE THE BIGGER PROBLEM.

DON'T GET NERVOUS.

I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

FUWA (FLOAT)

FUWA

EVEN WITH ALL OF MY INFORMATION AND ANALYTICAL POWER...

...HIS PAST AND THAT OF HIS ANDROID ARE A MYSTERY TO ME.

THEY'RE COMPLETELY UNKNOWN VARIABLES IN THE PLAN.

BUON

KWOOM

YOU'RE KIDDING ME, WHITE!

YOU'RE SCARED OF THESE CHUMPS? YOU?

HMPH.

I'M BETTING THAT COLLECTOR HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE UNDER HIS BELT.

IT'LL BE SAFEST TO AVOID FIGHTING THEM.

I AGREE WITH WHITE.

IN ANY CASE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO HURRY.

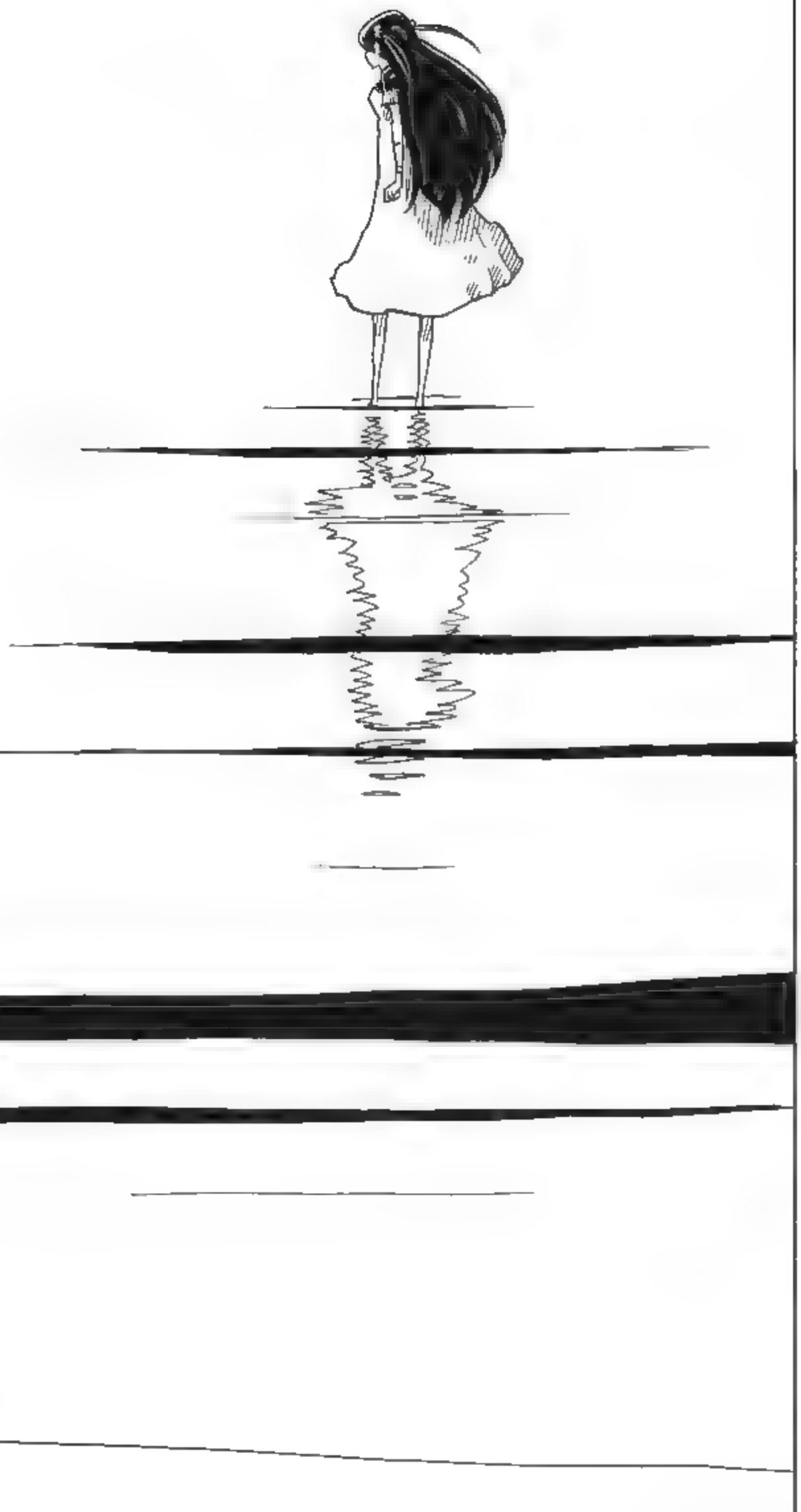
THEY STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED THE TRUE NATURE OF THE ENTITY THEY'RE CHASING.

...MORE-OVER...

...THE "NIGHT"...

...COULD VERY WELL TAKE CARE OF THEM FOR US.

FILE.20
MEMORY METHOD



...AND THE DEATHS AT THE HOTEL WERE SUICIDES... OR AT WORST, MURDERS. RIGHT?

THEY SAY THAT THIS LAKE IS HAUNTED, BUT THERE'S NO PROOF...

.....

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TRUE...?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS, RI—

DROP IT.

HMM?

THE GHOST STORIES.

TALKING ABOUT THEM CALLS THEM UP.

"TH-THEM"?

THE TWENTY YOUNG FOLKS WHO DIED HERE.

十四

FLASH

LOOK, JUST STAY QUIET AND PATROL.

...THEN... THERE REALLY ARE...?

TALKIN' ABOUT IT IS TABOO AMONG THE LOCALS.

WH ...?

SIR!

KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, AND WE'LL BE DONE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

W...

WAIT UP, SIR!

BOOKS: 100 HAUNTED LOCATIONS ACROSS JAPAN, YASOGAMI VILLAGE, SHIJUUROU SAKAKI

PATAN (SHUT)

GAH. FINE.

IT'LL BE MORE OF A PAIN IF I DON'T.

YOU'RE GOING, THEN?

MN...

HRM?

...IT'S ALMOST NINE, MR. KYOUMA. YOUR MEETING WITH MR. ALBERT...?

I REALIZE YOU'RE PRACTICALLY ALLERGIC TO COILS, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

CAN'T WE BORROW E-BOOKS INSTEAD?

QUIT YER WHININ'.

NO SWEAT FOR A ROBOT, RIGHT?

ALL OF THEM!? BUT THEY'RE ON PAPER!

DOSA (WHUMP)

WHILE I'M GONE...THE BOOKS WE BORROWED FROM THE HOTEL...

MEMORIZE 'EM.

THE PEOPLE WHO'VE DIED HERE. DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT.

THE "GHOSTS" THAT HAVE BEEN SIGHTED.

THE PAST.

THE PRESENT.

READ UP ON EVERYTHIN' ABOUT THIS PLACE.

...WE'LL FIND THE ANSWERS WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR IN THE PAST.

UNLESS IT'S SOME FREAK COINCIDENCE...

TWO OLD FRIENDS, BOTH DROWNED TO DEATH.

GACHA (KACHAK)

...AND WHY HE DECIDED TO LIVE IN THIS BACKWATER HOTEL.

I WANT TO KNOW HIS CONNECTION TO GHOSTS ...

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, READ EVERYTHIN' WRITTEN BY SHIJUUROU SAKAKI TOO.

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO SPLIT UP IN HORROR STORIES.....

BATAN (SLAM)

WAIT...!

WHAT!? YOU WANT ME TO DO ALL THIS WORK ON MY OWN!?

KI (CREAK)

キィ〜

YOU CAN HANDLE IT, ROBOT.

FU (FLICKER)

Fu

?

YURA

YURA (SWAY)

FLICKERING LIGHTS?

TON (TAP)

TON

TON

HAVEN'T SEEN ONES LIKE THAT BEFORE—

FU (FLICKER)

FU

FU

...NOW WHY WOULD COIL-POWERED LED BULBS FLICKER?


...DIE.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
DIE.
ZAWA
DIE.
ZAWA
DIE!
...ALL OF YOU...
ZAWA
ZAWA
...SHOULD DIE!
......
PA (SHINE)
PA
PAAAA

GUESS THAT'S ONE "SUPERNATURAL" INSTANCE I'VE SEEN FOR MYSELF NOW.

KA (TAK)

KA

WAS IT A PRANK...

KA

...OR A WARNING?

KA

Restaurant Lounge

TON (TAP)

TON

.....

GIRI (TWITCH)

ギリ

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

HMPH!

OVER HERE, MABUCHI!

LoungeBar Steelhead

...BY INVOKING NEW TESLA'S GOOD NAME.

OH, I MERELY CLARIFIED OUR INNOCENCE...

...YOU SAY SOMETHING TO THAT DETECTIVE, AL?

LoungeBar Steelhead

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT WORK. TRY A BITE OF THIS.

ILSU (SWIP)

I WON'T ALLOW IT.

NEW TESLA HAS NO ENEMIES.

HA HA HA!

...ACT LIKE THAT, AND YOU'RE GONNA MAKE NOTHIN' BUT ENEMIES.

THE CHEF TELLS ME THAT THE STEELHEAD TROUT OF LAKE YASOGAMI ARE THE AREA'S BEST-KEPT SECRET.

DEEP FRIED STEELHEAD WITH HERBS. THE FISH IS THIS BAR'S NAMESAKE.

THE STEELHEAD THRIVE HERE AS A RESULT.

NO ONE DISTURBS LAKE YASOGAMI.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CHEF MUROI?

...YES, SIR.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK, SIR?

GOT ANY SHOCHU?

MOGU (CHEW)

MOGU

...YEAH, THIS IS GOOD STUFF.

UH-HUH.

THIS IS FISH HEAVEN.

BOOKS: EVIL SPIRITS IN OUR WORLD, PROFILES OF HAUNTED PLACES: LAKE YASOGAMI

NOTHING BUT SCARY BOOKS...

WOW...

MERELY MEMORIZING INFORMATION IS MEANINGLESS, MIRA.

...

REMEMBER IT ALL AS ONE INTERCONNECTED WORLD.

YOU SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY CONSTRUCTING AN IMAGE FROM THE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

BOOKS: THE LAKE OF DEATH, YASOGAMI VILLAGE

...BUT I WOULDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE READ THEN, WOULD I...?

IF I WERE SIMPLY MEMORIZING THEM, I'M SURE I WOULDN'T BE SCARED.

WHEN YOU OBTAIN NEW INFORMATION...

...RECONSTRUCT ALL OF THE IMAGES TO WHICH THAT INFORMATION CONNECTS.

WHEN THE INFORMATION IS INSUFFICIENT, USE YOUR MEMORIES TO FILL IN THE BLANKS.

YOU...

...ARE AS CLOSE TO HUMAN AS YOU CAN BE.

THIS IS A HIGHLY ADVANCED METHOD. ONE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL PROCESSORS AND MEMORY CREATED UP TO THIS POINT.

BUT YOU, MIRA...

YOU POSSESS A BRAIN THAT CAN PERFORM THIS TASK INSTANTANEOUSLY.

IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT ABILITY THAT THIS SCARES ME SO MUCH...

OH, FATHER...

.....

PARA (FLIP)

CLOSE TO HUMAN...

...IT HAD TO BE WRITTEN IN FIRST PERSON...

Told By Mr. A
e summer, when we were still in hig
ool, we piled into B's car. He was an
er student at school, and he'd offered t
e us to Yasogami Lake. The lake wa
nously haunted, but none of us actu
elieved in ghosts; still, wouldn't it be
something if we did see one? And so we
took off for Yasogami, on a dare of sor
noticed that something was s
onto an old road

OH GEEZ... EVEN WORSE...

BOOK: PROFILES OF HAUNTED PLACES

B

UN KNOWN

HYUN (WHOOSH)

WHEN I READ ANYTHING IN FIRST PERSON, I VISUALIZE IT AS THOUGH EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO THE NARRATOR, HAPPENS TO ME. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO STOMACH...

ESPECIALLY HORROR STORIES...

UNKNOWN

UNKNOWN

AH!

I was relieved that nothing had happened—not that I would admit it to the others. Suddenly, B said, 'It wasn't that scary. Not with three of us.' But didn't he mean four? I had assumed that the girl sitting next to me the whole drive was his younger sister. 'Wait,' 'Who's sitting next to you?' A chill ran down my spine.

DON (BAM)

ドン

NOOOO!

Overtaken by fear, he yanked on the steering wheel. The car swerved and crashed through the guardrail, sending us tumbling over the cliff.

EEEEEK!

HEE HEE!

WANA (SHIVER)

WANA

THAT WAS TERRIFYING.

...TH...

I COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM THE SOUNDS... FROM THE SCREAMS...

IN MY IMAGINATION, I COULD FEEL MY BODY TWIST IN UNSPEAKABLE WAYS, AND THEN I COULDN'T MOVE...

IT'S NIGHT. IT'S GOTTEN COLDER. YES, THAT'S ALL.

J-JUST THE BUILDING CREAK-ING... AHEH...

THE SOONER I GET THROUGH ALL OF THIS, THE BETTER!

N... NEXT...

BIKU (JOLT)

PAKI (CREAK)

THIS ONE IS THE LATE MR. SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S MOST FAMOUS BOOK...

A S B E S T

SHIJUUROU SAKAKI

FLOWER OF ASBESTOS

LET'S SEE...

IN I GO...

PARA

110=7"

PARA (FLIP)

110=7"

ZAAAA (FSSH)

PUSHAA (PSSH)

110=7"

SHAWAAA (SHH)

シャワー

MY HORROR IMAGE LIBRARY MORE THAN DOUBLED IN ONE SITTING.

M...

THE NOVEL WAS THE WORST ...

MR. SHI-JUUROU'S NOVELS ARE TOO GORY.

I FELT LIKE I HAD TO RUN TO THE SHOWER TO WASH MYSELF OFF...

ZAAA (FSSH)

キュッ KYU (SQUEAK)

キュッ KYU

...BUT...

SU (STAND)

スッ

MR. SHI-JUUROU SPENDS FAR TOO MUCH TIME PULLING BODIES APART.

I NEVER KNEW THAT SMELL WAS SO CONNECTED TO FEAR.

AND HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF PAIN AND SUFFERING ARE TOO EXACT...

HIS NOVEL, AND YASO-GAMI...

THE IMAGES OVERLAP TOO MUCH TO BE A COINCI-DENCE.

...

I LEARNED SOMETHING SCANNING ALL OF THOSE BOOKS.

GUPA (PULL)

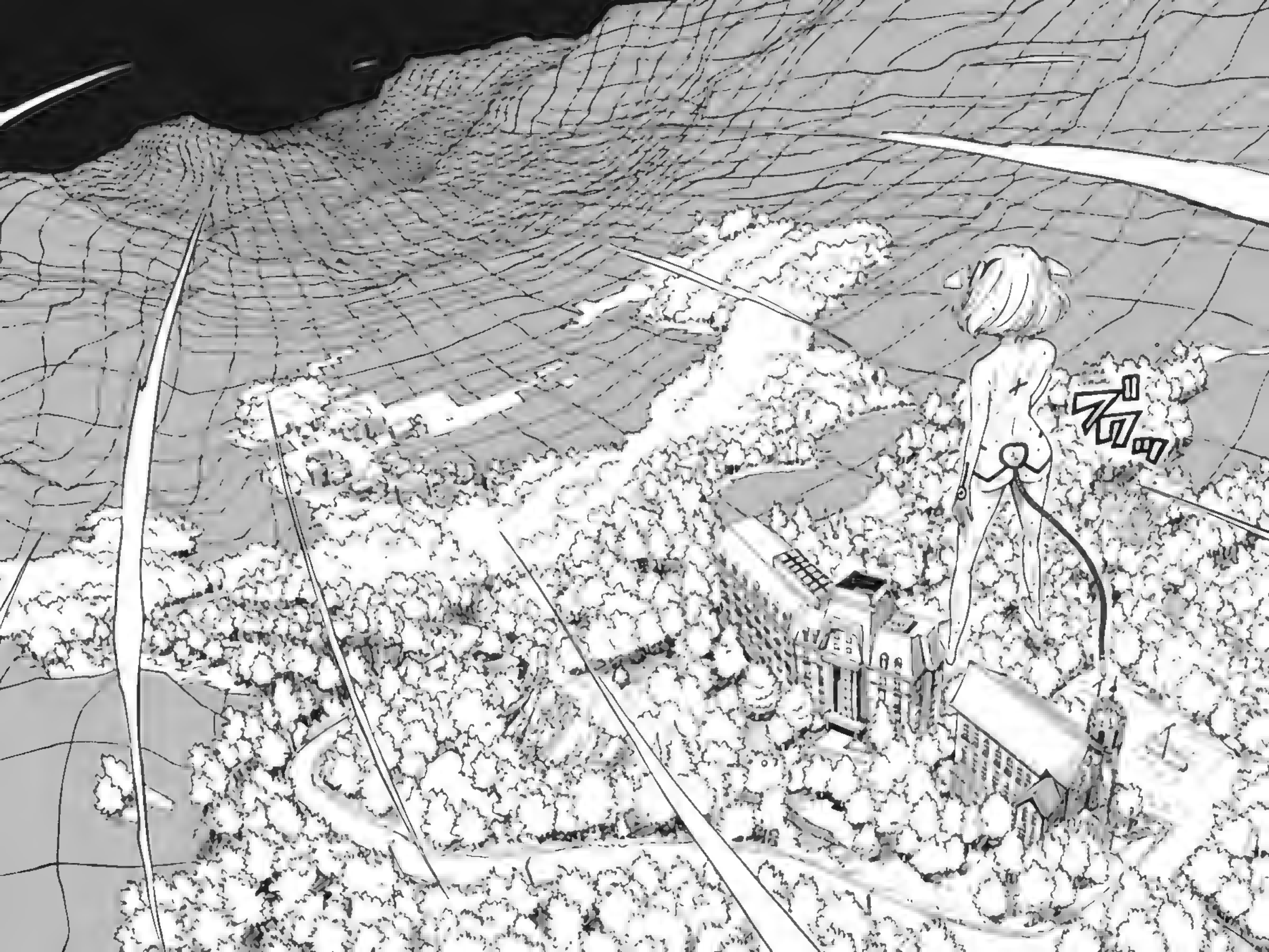
HYUN WHOOSH

IN THE LAKE'S PAST.

KIII (VWEEND)

THE ANSWERS LIE IN THE PAST.

MR. KYOUMA IS RIGHT.


ゴゴゴ

YEEK!

TSURU! (SLIP)

THIS IS YASOGAMI AS IT WAS TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

I'VE RECON-STRUCTED THIS IMAGE BASED ON ALL OF THE INFORMATION I HAVE SO FAR.

BECHA (SMACK)

AHA-HA-HA!

ME, SLIPPING?

...I WAS CONCEN-TRATING SO HARD THAT I STOPPED PAYING ATTENTION TO REALITY!

DO (RUMBLE)

SOAP



FILE.21
HISTORY

MARY NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE.

GETTING HER HANDS NOT JUST ON FOUR, BUT ON A SECOND SEIRA-STYLE ANDROID!

HRM?

WHAT WAS ITS NAME, AGAIN?

.....

MIRA.

NOT ONLY THAT, VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING THEM.

THE REAL MCCOY, WITH NO COMPROMISES MADE, IS TERRIBLY EXPENSIVE.

I HEARD THAT THEY USUALLY HAVE IT ACT HUMAN, TO TEST NEW A.I.

IF IT'S ALSO THAT WELL-MADE, I CAN SEE WHY.

RIGHT, RIGHT! MIRA.

THERE'S AN ANDROID WHO LOOKS QUITE SIMILAR AT THE TOWER.

RUN-NING THE FRONT DESK.

AND I GOT NOTHIN' BUT GRIPES ABOUT IT.

NOW THAT IS A VERY MARY THING TO DO.

...AND THRUSTING AN ANDROID ON YOU, WHEN THEY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED THE EMBODIMENT OF COILS...

TAKING SOMEONE WHO HATES COILS AND AVOIDS OWNING THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ...

HRUMPH.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE GRATEFUL, YOU KNOW.

SHE WAS ALREADY IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH FOR TRANSFORM-ING YOU FROM A VERITABLE SHUT-IN TO A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY AS A COLLECTOR.

KARAN CUNKO

カラン

HOW GOES THE INVESTI-GATION?

HRM?

...NOW THEN, MABUCHI.

BUT AS YOUR CLIENT, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR UPDATES.

I SAID I WOULDN'T TELL YOU HOW TO DO THE JOB.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T STICK YOUR NOSE IN MY WORK.

.....

YOU REALLY TICK ME OFF.

TCH.

HMM, HMM, HMM.

...BESIDES ...

...ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO ASK ME?

...AND INCONSISTENCIES WITH THE CAMERAS.

DROWNING...

THE FIRST AND SECOND DEATHS HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON.

NEITHER DID THE HOUSEKEEPING BOT'S CAMERA.

THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY WINDOWS WERE OPENED. THE DOOR WAS CRACKED, BUT THE CAMERAS OUTSIDE HIS STUDY DIDN'T SHOW ANY INTRUDERS.

IN THE FIRST ...

...THE WATER DISPENSER IS THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF THE WATER THAT DROWNED SHIJUUROU SAKAKI.

AS IN THE FIRST DEATH, NONE OF THE CAMERAS SHOW ANYONE WALKING OUT WITH THAT KEY.

THE KEY TO THE BUS STARTED OUT IN THE DRIVER'S PRIVATE ROOM, BUT IT DISAPPEARED, AND WAS FOUND IN HAGEYAMA'S STOMACH.

IN THE SECOND ...

...ATSUSHI HAGEYAMA DROWNED IN LAKE WATER INSIDE THE BUS.

THE SECURITY CAMERA WAS LOCATED RIGHT BESIDE THE BUS.

AND THE BUS IS THERE, ON THE VIDEO.

HOW WAS IT STRANGE, EXACTLY?

BUT THE STRANGEST PART IS THE SECURITY FEED FROM WHEN THE BUS LEFT THE PARKING LOT.

SECONDS LATER, WHEN THE FOG PASSES AND THE VISIBILITY COMES BACK, THE BUS IS GONE.

BUT THE FOG GETS THICKER AND THICKER...

...UNTIL YOU CAN'T SEE IT ANYMORE.

MOVIN' THE BUS OUT OF VIEW IN ONLY A FEW SECONDS? THAT'S NO EASY FEAT.

WHAT'S MORE, THAT PARKING LOT AIN'T EXACTLY SMALL.

...BUT FOG? COULD YOU CONTROL FOG WITH TIMING LIKE THAT?

...NOW, I CAN THINK OF A NUMBER OF WAYS TO TAMPER WITH A CAMERA...

I ASKED THE HOTEL MANAGER, AND HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FOG SUDDENLY GREW THICK THE NIGHT SHIJUUROU DIED.

SO. MOVING ON.

THE FOG'S A COMMON FEATURE IN YASOGAMI GHOST STORIES TOO.

FOG, HMM ...?

YEAH. FOG.

TIME FOR YOU TO COME CLEAN, ALBERT.

...AND THE EVENTS THAT THE GHOST STORIES ARE BASED ON.

NEXT, I'M LOOKING INTO YASO-GAMI'S HISTORY ...

THE LAKE ITSELF IS A CLUE.

NOW WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA?

'COS OF YASO-GAMI'S HISTORY.

THE BUREAU'S BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T THEY? NOT JUST ONCE. MULTIPLE TIMES.

LAKE YASOGAMI...

IT DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO. IT'S AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE THAT WAS FILLED AFTER THE OLD POWER COMPANY BUILT A COUPLE OF DAMS.

...WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THE POWER COMPANY WANTED TO SUBMERGE YASOGAMI VILLAGE TO MAKE A LAKE, A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE BANDED TOGETHER AND HOLED UP IN THE VILLAGE TO TRY TO STOP THE FLOODIN'.

ULTIMATELY, THEY LOST THEIR LIVES.

THE GHOST STORIES ARE BASED ON THAT PIECE OF HISTORY.

THE COIL WAR STARTED AT AROUND THE SAME TIME.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, THE TOWERS WEREN'T IN OPERATION YET. COILS WEREN'T ON THE MARKET.

OLD-FASHIONED ELECTRICITY COMPANIES STILL HELD ALL THE POWER, LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY.

MY GOOD-NESS.

DO GO ON.

AND TO HELP PROVE THEIR POINT, NEW TESLA LENT THOSE KIDS A HAND, DIDN'T THEY?

NATURALLY, THE PROTESTORS WOULDA ARGUED THAT.

BUT HYDRO-POWER WOULD BE OBSOLETE WITH COILS AROUND.

THE POWER COMPANY BUILT THE DAMS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY.

...AND NEW TESLA COVERED UP THEIR INVOLVEMENT, DIDN'T THEY?

THEN THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT...

THE TRUTH IS, THEY'VE GOT GOOD REASON TO FEEL GUILTY, DON'T THEY?

LET ME GUESS WHY.

YOUR PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO COME HERE.

YOU SAID IT YOUR-SELF, ALBERT.

...YOUR PEOPLE WENT AND OPENED UP PANDORA'S BOX THERE, DIDN'T THEY?

.....

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO...

IT'S TRUE.

NEW TESLA KNEW NOTHING ABOUT YASOGAMI UNTIL AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

IT IS TRUE THAT MANY LIVES WERE LOST IN AN ACCIDENT, BUT IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THE FLOODING.

YOU'RE A SHARP ONE, MABUCHI!

HMM, HMM ...

AHA-HA HA-HA!

...TCH!

BUT YOU'RE HALF WRONG.

.....

"OB-JECT?"

...THE PROBLEM IS THAT, WITHOUT NEW TESLA'S KNOWLEDGE, A CERTAIN OBJECT WAS BROUGHT TO YASOGAMI...

...AND LOST IN THE ACCIDENT.

064

ONE OF THE "NUMBERS."

NUMBERS...

YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT THE "NUMBERS," YOUNGSTER?

地下1F 電々堂

THAT'S A NEW NICKNAME FOR 'EM.

SIGN: BASEMENT 1F, HOUSE OF ELECTRONICS

THIS HERE'S A REPLICA.

HYU (TOSS)

CATCH.

PASHA (CATCH)

BACK THEN, THEY WERE CALLED "BETA COILS" OR "MICRO GATES"... "MG" FOR SHORT.

THOSE ARE THE COILS YOU NOW CALL "NUMBERS."

BEFORE THE TOWERS WERE FINISHED, NEW TESLA DISTRIBUTED A NUMBER OF COILS LARGE AND SMALL TO RESEARCHERS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

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COMMERCIALIZIN' COILS AS A HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT WAS NEW TESLA'S GOAL FROM THE START...THE DESIGN HAD TA BE STANDARD.

AND IT SHOULDN'T.

DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT THAN YOUR AVERAGE COIL, OTHER THAN THE NUMBER.

.....

KASHA (CLICK)

カシャッ!!

WHEN THE CENTER PLATE IS RAISED...

...YOU CAN SEE THE SERIAL NUMBER ETCHED INTO THE SIDE.

KACHI (CLINK)

カチカチ

KACHI

YOU'RE A COLLECTOR. YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TA TELL ILLEGAL COILS FROM LEGAL ONES.

IF IT'S RECESSED, IT'S ILLEGAL.

IF IT STANDS OUT, IT'S LEGAL.

S.YURIZAKI

INSTEAD OF A SERIAL NUMBER, THEY'RE LABELED WITH THE CREATOR'S NAME.

KASHA (CLICK)

カシャッ

THE NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT.

THE SIXTY TOWERS AROUND THE WORLD, THEY STABILIZE SOME OF THE ENERGY OF DIMENSION W. THAT'S WHAT COILS TAP INTA.

NOW, THIS GOES FOR ALL MODERN COILS, LEGAL OR NOT.

IT'S THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE NUMBERS THAT MAKE 'EM SPECIAL.

NOPE. 'COURSE THERE'S MORE.

THAT'S THE ONLY DIFFER-ENCE?

THE NUMBERS WERE THE ONLY COILS MADE BEFORE THE TOWERS WERE ACTIVATED, SO THEY DON'T REAP ANY OF THE BENEFITS.

DIMENSION W

IT'S MADE SO THAT ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS DIP INTA THAT THIN LAYER, AND YOU'LL GET ALL THE ENERGY YA NEED.

THE SURFACE OF DIMENSION W, SO TO SPEAK.

...DEEP, DEEP DOWN INTO THE ABYSS OF DIMENSION W.

DIMENSION W

INSTEAD, THE NUMBERS REACH...

...SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE NUMBERS DON'T TAKE ENERGY FROM THAT SHALLOW END?

THAT'S RIGHT.

.....

I HEAR TELL THAT CAUSED NO END O' TROUBLE.

INTA THE UNKNOWN.

THERE WERE ABOUT THREE HUNDRED OF 'EM IN ALL, AND THEY COLLECTED 'EM RIGHT AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE TOWERS. WORD IS THEY'RE FRANTIC TO COLLECT THE MISSING ONES EVEN NOW.

...ANYHOW, IT'S A STAIN ON THEIR HISTORY THAT THEY DON'T WANT NOBODY TOUCHIN'.

THE BIGGEST AND MOST BAFFLING OF ALL OF THE ACCIDENTS NEW TESLA HAS COVERED UP? USUALLY, ONE OF THE NUMBERS IS TA BLAME.

EVER RUN INTO BLOODCURDLING PHENOMENA YOU CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TA EXPLAIN?

THINK YOU'VE EVER COME ACROSS ONE OF THE NUMBERS UNAWARES?

.....

YOU SEEM TA BE PRETTY DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH COILS.

HOW 'BOUT IT, YOUNGSTER?

.....

SO THAT'S WHAT THAT WAS...

OUR SOCIETY AIN'T ADVANCED ENOUGH TO CONTROL THOSE THINGS...NO...

HUMANITY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONTROL 'EM.

BUT I'LL SAY THIS MUCH...

...THE LOOK ON YER FACE TELLS ME I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.

...I WON'T ASK WHAT YOU SAW.

WATCH YOURSELF.

AL-THOUGH THEY WERE KNOWN BY OTHER NAMES IN THE PAST.

YES. THE VERY SAME.

I HAD A HUNCH, BUT...

...*NUM-BERS.*

THE NUMBERS, HUH?

HOW'S SOME-THIN' SO POWERFUL END UP IN YASOGAMI?

APPARENTLY, A CERTAIN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LENT IT OUT TO A PUPIL OF HIS.

THEY'RE QUITE THE ABOMINABLE EXISTENCE, FOR US.

PHYSICS PROFESSOR KENJIROU KURODA.

AND HIS FORMER PUPIL...

...STUDENT TEACHER HARUKA ENAMORI.

PA (SMACK)

110

AND THEN CAME THE FLOOD?

COR-RECT.

BETWEEN THE PRO-DAM GROUP FLOODING WATER INTO THE VILLAGE, AND THE NIGHT-MARISH WEATHER ...

...THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT TO SAFETY IN TIME.

ENAMORI ACTED AS THE LEADER OF THE PROTES-TORS.

...BY USING A COIL TO POWER THE VERY VILLAGE THE POWER COMPANY WANTED TO SINK.

IT SEEMS THAT SHE PLANNED TO ARGUE THAT THE DAMS WERE UNNECESSARY...

THAT WAS WHEN, ALONG WITH SEVERAL BODIES...

...THE NUMBERS DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE WATER.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, PEOPLE BEGAN SEEING GHOSTS AT LAKE YASOGAMI.

...IT WAS NO-WHERE TO BE FOUND.

BY THE TIME D.A.B. REALIZED THE COIL HAD GONE MISSING AND RUSHED TO YASOGAMI VILLAGE

HOWEVER, A TEAM FROM THE BUREAU ENCOUNTERED...THE "SUPERNATURAL"... TWICE. ONCE EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, AND ONCE ELEVEN YEARS AGO.

BOTH TIMES, THE TROOPS WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY WIPED OUT.

THE NUMBERS IS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE "GHOSTS," THEN?

... WELL.

WE CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT YET.

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, SOMETHING DRAGGED THEM IN.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVIVORS...

FIRST, THEY SAW THE SILHOUETTE OF A GIRL IN THE FOG.

YES.

...WHEN YOU FOUND OUT THAT IT HAD RESURFACED—WITH SHI-JUUROU SAKAKI'S DEATH.

...AFTER-WARD, WITH NO WARNING, THE PHENOMENA STOPPED APPEARING, AND THE BUREAU WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP...

WHEN A SEPARATE TEAM FOUND THEM, ALMOST ALL OF THEM HAD DROWNED.

MY BIGGEST REASON, HOWEVER, IS THAT YOU ARE STRON-GER THAN ANYONE.

THAT, AND BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE OF VERY FEW PEOPLE TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED NUMBERS ACCIDENTS.

I CHOSE YOU FOR THIS JOB BECAUSE I WANTED TO KEEP THINGS QUIET. WE DON'T WANT IT GETTING OUT THAT ONE OF THE NUMBERS IS HERE.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU CAME BACK?

...SAY, MABUCHI.

.....

THE OLD YOU, ANYWAY.


Dimension



FILE.22
FLOOD OF MEMORIES



PURIRIIRII

THAT'S ME.

PUURII

ス!!!

SU (SWIP)

PURIRIIRII (RING)

PUURII

...IT'S KOOROGI.

PUURII

着信

コオロギ!!

PURIRIIRII

PHONE: INCOMING CALL. KOOROGI

NOW THAT'S NOT THE VOICE OF A GRATEFUL MAN, KYOUMA.

NYEH HEH!

WHO DO YOU THINK I WORKED ALL NIGHT LONG FOR? SEA URCHIN-FACE.

SHADD-AP.

PI (BEEP)

YOU STRONG-ARMED A BATTERY ONTO THAT? QUITE A... UNIQUE PHONE YOU HAVE THERE.

WHADDAYA WANT, KOOROGI?

SHE WANTED TO KNOW IF I COULD RECOVER ANY DATA FROM WHEN THE VIDEO GOES DARK. WHEN HE DIES.

I WAS DISSECTING THE VIDEO FILE OF SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S DEATH, PER MARY'S REQUEST.

All night long?

BUT YOU STILL OWE ME FOR THIS, KYOUMA.

FUAA YAWN

...is a piece of cake.

... fooah ...

For a genius like me, a little data diving...

WELL? COULD YA?

TALK, KOORO-GI.

HELLO, KOOROGI!

Oh yeah?

THE CLIENT, AL, IS SITTIN' RIGHT NEXT TO ME.

KOTO (TNK)

フトゥ!!

OH REALLY?

...SOUNDS LIKE KOOROGI GOT SOMETHING OUT OF THE HOUSEKEEPING ROBOT'S DATA.

PHONE: CALL IN PROGRES, KOOROGI

THIS'D DRAIN ITS BATTERY IN NO TIME FLAT.

CAN'T USE KYOUMA'S SAD EXCUSE FOR A PHONE.

NYEH HEH!

Yeah.

LIKE THIS?

Stick it next to Kyou-ma's.

Then I'll project the data from your phone.

OF COURSE.

You've got a Coil-powered phone, like a civilized person, yeah?

Your water...

...how the video goes dark for about two minutes right after this?

You remember...

PA (FLICKER)

GISHI (CREAK)

Yes, Keebo?

Now, this here is the video in question.

The lights didn't go out either.

Clearly the camera itself didn't break.

YUP, THAT'S THE BIG QUES-TION.

"WHY DOES THE VIDEO CUT OUT," YOU ASK?

Gwah!

ZA ZA (FUN)

...“THE DATA ITSELF WAS COMPLETELY OVER-WRITTEN.”

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER.

THE LUCKY WINNER IS...

But you can be sure that the data came through the Coil.

I haven't worked out the method yet.

The bot's memory was rewritten directly in real time.

Nope, not quite.

OVER-WRITTEN?

THIS HAPPENED AFTER SAKAKI'S DEATH?

BUT SEEING IS BELIEVING.

And let me tell you, it was out of this dimen-sion.

...Based on that fragment, I cal-culated the size of the original data.

The robot was too low-spec to handle it. Only a fragment of the data is stored on it.

'Cos we're talkin' about a massive amount of data.

HOW ARE YOU SURE?


...!!!
!!?
Voilà.
I restored as much as I could.
This is the data's true shape.
BUON (VOOM)


...!!
IT'S THE ULTIMATE 3-D DATA.
3-D DATA...?
THE RESOLUTION GOES DOWN TO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL.

AHA-HA-HA.

...ME, SLIPPING?

AGAIN!

HE'D SAY I'M STILL BROKEN.

WHAT IF MR. KYOUMA SAW THAT?

SOAP?

.....

SU (SWIP)

I'D BETTER FINISH UP.

?

THERE'S NO REASON I NEED TO THINK IN HERE, ANYW—

.....

IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF MR. KYOUMA SLIPPED TOO.

KOTO (TNK)

MILK

WHEN DID SOAP GET ON THE FLOOR...?

I THINK...
...I HAVE A BAD FEELING...
.....
!?
MY CLOTHES ARE GONE...
GACHA (KACHAK)
IS THIS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A PRANK?
THE ROOM CHANGED TOO...
.....
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (RUMBLE)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

.....

THE FURNI-TURE AND WALL-PAPER CHANGED.

TO BE EXACT, THE FLOOR PLAN IS THE SAME.

(RUMBLE)

A LOW RUMBLING.

... THERE'S MORE.

A NOISE THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE.

GAPA (BAM)

IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE ...


ZAAA (FSSH)
DO (RUMBLE)

ZAAAA (FSSH)

WHAT?

DO (RUMBLE)

.....

DO

DO

DO

.....

IT'S LIKE A LITTLE BUBBLE WORLD.

NOW THIS IS FASCINATING ...

TO THINK ITS RECORDING WOULD TAKE THIS SHAPE...

THE MOMENT OF SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S DEATH...

THE EVENTS OF THOSE TWO MINUTES OF COMPLETE STATIC ...

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING MR. SAKAKI?

Even I needed all night to reconstruct a single frame from it.

Zero, pinhead. It's too elaborate to be a trick.

WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF THIS BEIN' SOME KIND OF TRICK OR PRANK?

They only take up space in the memory.

I'd haveta say no.

That said, if you asked me if these guys actually exist in physical form?

THE 3-D DATA IS SO COMPLETE THAT IT MAPS THEIR INSIDES TOO.

OR IT COULD BE THEY JUST LOOK THAT WAY 'COS OF MISSING DATA.

COULD BE THAT'S HOW THEY APPEARED IN THE ORIGINAL DATA.

Their bodies appear to be decomposed, like zombies.

If these guys did have mass, there's no way the room woulda come out unscathed.

When the video comes back, none of the objects in the room have changed position.

Take a closer look. You can see them overlapping with the furniture.

Like in Coil accidents.

'Cos they don't got any mass.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

IF IT DOESN'T REFLECT LIGHT, IT DOESN'T GET RECORDED.

HE SHOULD SHOW UP ON THE CAMERA IN THE HALLWAY. BUT NO DICE.

THIS GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'S WALKIN' THROUGH THE DOOR?

PLUS, THEY DON'T SHOW UP ON THE SECURITY CAMERAS.

SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.

WHAT?

...SHE'S GONE!

I CAN EVEN BRING IT UP IN MY LOGS—

I SAW HER, I SWEAR!

!

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS ONE BIT.

DID SOMETHING CLICK, MABUCHI?

BUT IF A NUMBERS IS INVOLVED, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

KOO-RO-GI.

Sure I can. Gimme a sec.

Huh?

CAN YOU COMPARE THEM TO THE VICTIMS OF THE LAKE YASOGAMI ACCIDENT TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO?

DO DO DO (RUMBLE)

ZAAA (FSSH)

...HOW IN THE WORLD DID THIS HAPPEN...?

FOR A NUMBERS...

...WOULD BE ALL TOO EASY.

...LOCKING EVERY ATOM OF THAT TRAGEDY INSIDE DIMENSION W...


THIS IS GONNA HURT.
DO (RUMBLE)

HA!

YEEK!

BASHI (WHAM)

MY BODY WON'T MOVE THE WAY I WANT IT TO.

!!?

BASHA (SPLASH)!!!

TCH.

OTHER THAN THE GUY IN THE MIDDLE...

...THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE ACCIDENT TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

74%
66%
90%
81%
?
79%
83%

GOT AN 80% MATCH.

...BINGO, KYOUMA.

TEXT: RYOUKO MORINAGA

90%
森永良子
DO (RUMBLE)
DO
DO
DO

IT'S A MATCH. HER FACE. THIS SCENERY.

THIS IS THE IMAGE OF YASOGAMI, TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO!

DON'T DO THAT!

WHY DID YOU MOVE?

AHA HA HA!

WHEN I WAS SWEPT AWAY, MY ARM GOT WRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE. IT RIPPED ME AAALL UP.

ONLY ... ... THIS ...

YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE BONE. SEE?

.....

LOOK AT MY ARM.

LOOK.

DO (RUMBLE) DO DO

...IS NOT JUST MY IMAGI-NATION!

YOU SHOULD SEE HOW IT FEELS!

FILE.23
TWO WORLDS



BAN BAM

UNBE-KNOWNST TO ME, I'D SLIPPED INTO ANOTHER WORLD.

INTO THE MEMO-RIES...

HA!

...OF YASO-GAMI, TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

AH HA!

WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN?

I'D BEEN SEEING IT SINCE WE CAME TO YASOGAMI.

SINCE WHEN?

SINCE THE SHOWER?

...NO. EARLIER THAN THAT.

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY!

THE LINK JUST HAPPENED TO BE UNSTABLE AT FIRST. THE IMAGE WAS WEAK.

WHEN I TRIED TO PICTURE THE WORLD OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO CLEARLY IN MY HEAD, IT MUST HAVE STRENGTHENED THE LINK.

GOTO (CLUNK)

ゴト

...AND NOW I CAN'T GET OUT.

YAH!

ブン (FLING)

HA!

WHAT DID YOU THINK THAT WOULD DO?

ガシャン (SHATTER)

!!!

BA-BAM!

OPEN

DO (RUMBLE)

DO

DO

DO

GARI

GARI

GARI (CLAW)

BUSU

BUSU

BUSU (STAB)

MUSHA

KUCHA

MUSHA

MUSHA (GNAW)

...IN A NIGHT-MARE.

I'M STUCK ...

I WAS WRONG. THIS ISN'T JUST A MEMORY. IT'S FAR, FAR WORSE.

GABUU (CHOMP)

AUGH!

GET HER!

BA (FWIP)

BEKI (CRACK)

DOSA (WHAM)

AHA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BARGING INTO MY FAVORITE ROOM!

MR. KYOU-MA...!

HELP!

I CAN'T MOVE.

AHA HA HA HA HA!

AA

HI

AA

...THOSE GUYS ARE EVEN FURTHER GONE THAN ME!

AS YOU CAN SEE...

GAA (ARGH)

PATA

NYA

PATA (FLAP)

NYA

AHA-HA-HA-HA!

HELP ME...!

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO (RUMBLE)

DO

WOW...

PI (BEEP)

PI

PI

GOOD JOB.

PIRON (DING)

Task complete.

PATA

PATA

PATA (FLAP)

PATAN (SHUT)

A LADY HAS TO HAVE HER DIVER-SIONS.

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, ELLIE!

DID YOU MAKE THAT ROBOT YOURSELF?

PATA

PATA

BACK TO WORK WITH YOU.

MY, MY.

...WHILE GHOST-HUNTING.

I CAN'T HELP IT IF I HAPPENED TO HEAR THIS AND THAT...

...UM, ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE EAVES-DROPPING ON THE POLICE?

WE NEED TO MEET WITH THE HOTEL OWNER, MARISA SAKAKI, PRONTO.

HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE, MR. MABUCHI?

MR. MAKITA.

...VERY WELL, SIR. WAIT JUST A MOMENT, AND I'LL—

AH!

WE CAN ESCORT OUR-SELVES.

YEAH. NOW.

DO YOU MEAN... NOW?

I CAN'T LET YOU STEAL A MARCH ON US.

ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT TRADING CLUES WITH YOU.

MIND IF WE JOIN YOU?

COLOR ME IN-TRIGUED.

DON'T START TREATING THEM LIKE THEY'RE WITH US, AL.

PLEASE CALL ME AL.

MISUZU MIDORIKAWA? AND ELIZABETH GREENHOUGH-SMITH, WAS IT?

THINK NOTHING OF IT, MISS...

SORRY FOR OUR BAD MANNERS ...

THE ROBOT'S IN MY ROOM.

...BY THE WAY, WHERE'S YOUR ANDROID?

TCH.

OH, WE'RE GOING WITH YOU WHETHER YOU TREAT US THAT WAY OR NOT.

...ATSUSHI HAGEYAMA WAS NOT, IN FACT, SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S "OLD FRIEND."

BASED ON INFOR-MATION I JUST OBTAINED AND MY PRIOR RESEARCH ...

HE WAS BLACK-MAILING THE AUTHOR. SQUEEZING HIM DRY.

IF YOU WANT TO SWAP INFORMATION, I TAKE IT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHIN' WORTH KNOWING?

OBVI-OUSLY.

...AND IT SEEMS THAT HE STIRRED UP TROUBLE EVERYWHERE HE WENT.

IN REALITY, HE WAS JUST ON A PERMANENT VACATION.

THIS BEGAN AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE QUIT HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE AND BECAME A "FREE-LANCE WRITER."

HE'D BEEN FORCING SAKAKI TO FUNNEL MONEY INTO A SECRET BANK ACCOUNT FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.

WELL, I'LL BE.

...WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

WHY WOULD A CON ARTIST STICK AROUND AFTER HIS MONEY-MAKER DIED?

APPARENTLY MR. SHIJUUROU HAD EVEN PAID HIS BAIL BEFORE.

HE WAS CHARGED FOR TWO OF THEM.

HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN SIX CASES OF FRALD, AND THAT'S ONLY WHAT I'VE DUG UP.

I BELIEVE HE WAS LOOKING FOR *SOME-THING SPECIFIC.*

HE WAS USING HIS "BIOGRAPHY" AS AN EXCUSE TO DIG THROUGH SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S ESTATE.

WHY DID HE REMAIN HERE WHEN HE COULD VERY WELL BECOME THE PRIME SUSPECT?

A MYS-TERY, INDEED.

HEE HEE.

BASED ON HAGEYAMA'S BEHAVIOR AND THE RISK INVOLVED, WE CAN BE SURE THAT HIS MARK WAS SOMETHING OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE...

...SO IN OTHER WORDS, THE DIRT HAGEYAMA HAD ON SHIJUUROU SAKAKI WAS BIG. SOMETHING WORTH A BOATLOAD OF HUSH MONEY. BUT HAGEYAMA NEVER KNEW THE EXACT LOCATION OF HIS GOLDEN GOOSE.

THAT WOULD BE MY CONCLUSION, YES.

I'M BETTING THAT DIRT WAS SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S TRUE IDENTITY.

WHAT?

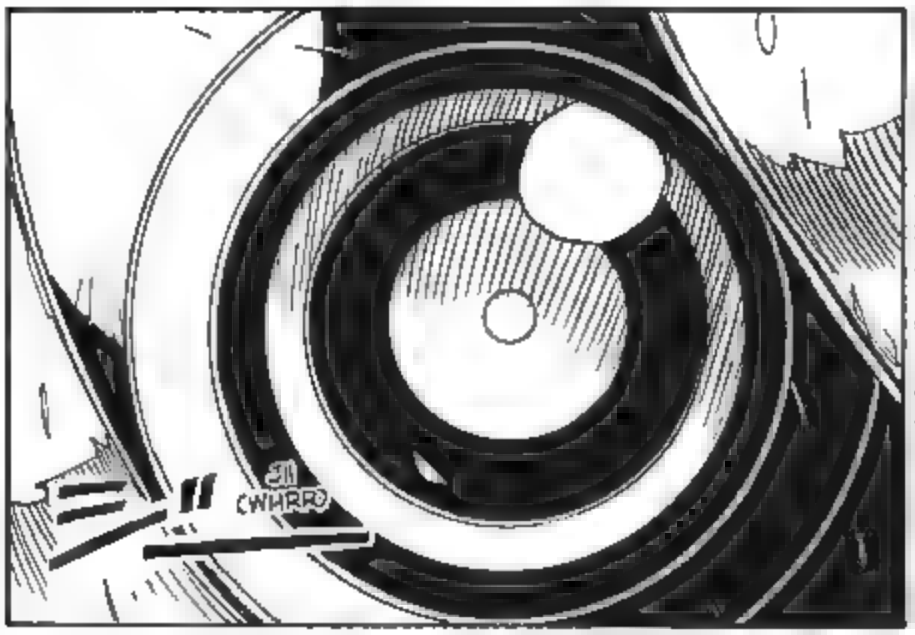
LOOKS LIKE THIS MYSTERY GOES DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT.

KORO コロ

KORO コロ

KORO (ROLL) コロ

GACHA (KACHAK) ガチャ

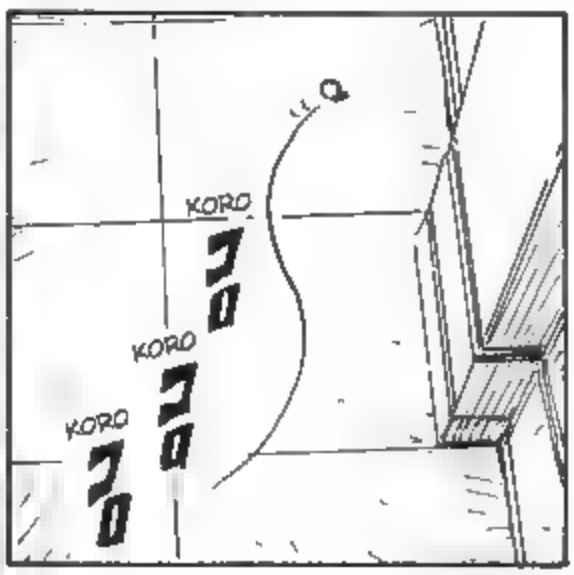

CWHRR


KASHA
(CLICK)
カシャ


IT'S TIME WE MADE OUR MOVE.




KASHA
カシャ


KORO
コロ
KORO
コロ
KORO
コロ

MISTRESS MARISA'S MEDICINE.

WHAT'S THAT?

KOTSU (CLOP)

KOTSU

KOTSU,

PI (BEEP)

...HMM.

I'M TOLD IT'S FOR ANXIETY. SHE TAKES IT EVERY NIGHT BEFORE BED.

SEPAZON...

WHAT KIND OF MEDICINE?

PATAN (SLAM)

IPA-!

GACHA (KACHAK)

THANK YOU.

GO ON IN.

THAT CHECKS OUT.

EVEN IF THEIR ALIBI CHECKS OUT.

REMEMBER, EVERYONE'S A SUSPECT.

DON'T LET ANYONE IN.

WHOEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH, SHE'D BE THEIR NEXT TARGET.

THE PERSON MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO SHIJUUROU SAKAKI AND ATSUSHI HAGEYAMA IS SAKAKI'S YOUNGER SISTER, MARISA.

..IN-SPECTOR, SIR!

YES, SIR...

GOOD.

Nothing of note detected by the sensors either.

Some fog rolled in, but it's no thicker than normal.

ANY REACTIONS FROM THE FIELD SENSORS?

HOW'S THE FOG OUT THERE?

GO

GO

GO (RRM)

I DARE YOU, GHOSTS OF YASOGAMI! IF YOU EXIST, PROVE IT!

I'LL ROUND THE LOT OF YOU UP, ALONG WITH THOSE EYESORE COLLECTORS!

SHOW YOURSELVES!

THANK YOU... KIYOMI...

KOTO CTNKO コト

YOUR MEDICINE, MISTRESS MARISA.

ゴクッ GOKU GGL..P

.....

OH, WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING.

KIYOMI?

.....

...BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO DIE...

I KNOW THE DRUGS DON'T WORK ANYMORE...

...I'M SO PATHETIC...

DON (BOOM)

WHAT WAS THAT!?

BIRI

BIRI

BIRI (CRACKLE)

BIRI

BIRI

WHAT!?

BIRI

WHAT THE HELL!!?

POLICE

BO

BO

BO (WHOOM)

THE BARRIER BALLOON IS DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY...!?

YEEEK!

BO BO BO

...!!!

BO BO BO (WHOOM)

GET YOUR BUTT INSIDE.

HEY, BRAT.

PAN (SMACK)

OOF!

THESE FELLOWS ARE BOLDER THAN I EXPECTED.

UP?

LOOK UP.

THE SKY, KIDDO.

I AM NOT A CHILD, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I'M **NOT A DAMN KI— AHEM...**

BOGAAAN (KABLAM)

KYLIN (WHEEN)

BUOO

...WHAT'S AN OLD SATELLITE DOING OVER YASOGAMI?

AND QUITE AN OLD ONE, AT THAT.

BUOO (WOO)

A SAT-ELLITE LASER !?

PAN

PAN (POP)

WHOA!

KORO

KORO

KORO

KORO

KORO

KORO (ROLL)

KORO

KORO

KORO

PITA (STOP)

FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON! HURRY!

FLA
ZAP

FLIK (SSST)
ZAP

!!

NOW IT'S THE LIGHTS !?

WHERE'S THAT BUCKET OF BOLTS WHEN I NEED IT?

TCH.

THE LIGHTS WERE ALL SHATTERED TOGETHER.

A-A BLACK-OUT!?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BLACKOUTS IN THE AGE OF COILS.

ZAAAAA (FSSH)

JARARA (JANGLE)

……


ZAAAA (FLASH)
YOUR EYES...
DO CRUMBLE
DEAD?
OR ALIVE?
HOW DOES THIS WORLD APPEAR THROUGH THEM?

IT CAN'T BE... ARE YOU...

...!?

YOU ARE HERE, BUT ARE YOU ALIVE? ...OR ARE YOU DEAD?

KURU- CTURN

...ANSWER ME THIS.

SNERK!

SHI- JUUROU SAKAKI ...

...FROM TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO!!?

DIMENSION W 3 END


Dimension

INTRODUCTION TO DIMENSION W

ディメンションW

No. 3: Androids & Nanomachines

GEAR 4

Rose here.

This time, we're going to talk about androids.

The introduction of Coils allowed the robot industry to grow by leaps and bounds.

Among the many types of robots, androids modeled after the human body are at the forefront, and their design has evolved in tandem with cyborg technology.

Each part is designed so that it can be transplanted or grafted to the human body.

This concept is pushed to the utmost limits...

...by we "Seira-style" androids, originally developed by Dr. Seira Yurizaki herself.

But the most revolutionary aspect of Seira-style robots is the structural maintenance performed by *nanomachines* containing quantum bits.

A skeletal structure of porous titanium alloy. Carbon nanotubes and high polymer composite artificial muscle tissue.

Artificial internal organs corresponding to human organs.

All of these parts are compatible with the human body.

If the foreign particles are close to the skin's surface, they are flushed out as sweat.

Should they be deeper, they are flushed out as urine.

When there is a foreign object in the body, they decompose it, and it is flushed out of the system along with water.

(VISUALIZATION)

The nanomachines are constantly coordinating to maintain the entire unit to spec.

YOU MUSTN'T ALWAYS BE IMAGINING NAUGHTY THINGS!

For androids, the majority of these organs are unnecessary.

However, Dr. Seira's goal was to create an android that would function as humanly as possible.

Currently, there are models with simplified functions for a more focused purpose on the market.

But originally...

...we were created for medical use.

TO BE CONTINUED

APPENDIX.01
TRANSLATION NOTES

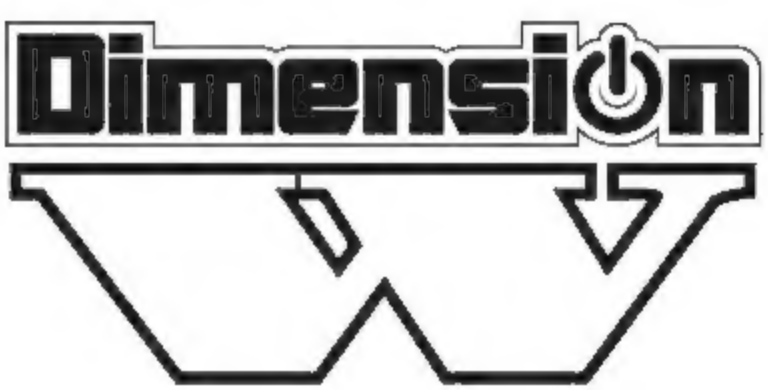
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Matcha: Finely-ground green tea powder. This is the kind of tea used in the tea ceremony; the preparation of both the tea plants and later the tea itself is relatively laborious.

Mama: In Japan, it's common for the proprietress of a bar or nightclub to be addressed as the "Mama" or "Mama-san."

PAGE 33

Beginner driver's decal: It's mandatory for new drivers in Japan to display this green and yellow V-shaped symbol on their car for one year after obtaining their license.


Dimension

Dimension W

by YUJI IWAHARA

Translation: Amanda Haley · Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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